

少年マガジン

Shonen Magazine Comics



ギターヒーロー

野中英次

4

特別号
番外編

Guitar Hero
THE ANIME



少年

ホップ・ステップ・マガジン! ダメだコリヤ!

WEEKLY
NO. 49



超クワイマックス!!
いまだセリフなし!!
「フレディ八年組」

あっち付け読者!!
「クッパさん大運動」

「林田とララバイ」

「オレは鉄製」

「愛と北」

「竹之内が通る」



「とんだベータ」

「タフネス神山」

「愛しのプータン」

「ラブのな」



人気御礼一挙2話

「1,2の山口ノボル」

やる気のなさ最高潮!! 巻頭カラーもやる気なし!!

魁!! クロマティ高校 04

番外編 野中英次



ダイナマイトしょんぼり新連載!!
オレは間違っていないのに!!

「前田ブルース」

キミの素顔が見たい!
今週のグラビアはマスクド竹之内!

感動の最終回! ま、いいか!
「あしたコリヤになあれ」

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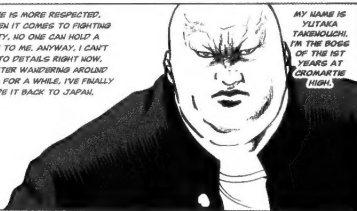
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CHAPTER SEVENTY-ONE: THE "BAD MAN RETURNS" THEME



NO ONE IS MORE RESPECTED,
AND WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING
ABILITY, NO ONE CAN HOLD A
CANDLE TO ME. ANYWAY, I CAN'T
GO INTO DETAILS RIGHT NOW,
BUT AFTER WANDERING AROUND
AMERICA FOR A WHILE, I'VE FINALLY
MADE IT BACK TO JAPAN.



MY NAME IS
YUTAKA
TAKEHOUCHI.
I'M THE BOSS
OF THE 1ST
YEARS AT
GROMARTE
HIGH.

THE ONLY THING IS...





IT ENDED UP
BEING THE
DAY OF OUR
SCHOOL FIELD
TRIP...AGAIN!

CONSIDERING HOW
EASILY I GET
MOTION SICK,
THIS HAS GOTTA
BE THEIR WAY OF
TRYIN' TO PICK A
FIGHT WITH ME!

HOW MANY
FRICKIN'
SCHOOL TRIPS
IS IT GONNA
TAKE TO
SATISFY
THESE GUYS?!

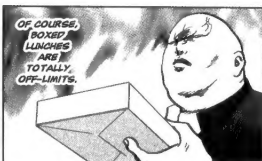


HEY,
THERE'S
TWO OF
'EM.

QUIT
STARING,
WILL YA?! HE
LOOKS MAD
AS HELL!

ARE THE
OLD DAYS OF
TERROR GONNA
START UP
AGAIN?

SO TAKE-
NOUCH'S
FINALLY
COME BACK.





I-IT
WON'T
OPEN!



HUH?



IT LOOKS LIKE RIDING
IN A VEHICLE I KNOW
NOTHING ABOUT HAS
REALLY UNSETTLED
ME. I CAN FEEL
MYSELF FALTERING...
THIS IS THE END!



HOW CARELESS
OF ME NOT
TO HAVE
CONSIDERED
THAT.

I GET IT.
THE WINDOW'S
DON'T OPEN ON
THE BULLET
TRAIN...



THE REASON
I'M SO ANXIOUS
IS THAT I'M
THINKING
ABOUT RIDING
IN A VEHICLE!



THAT'S
IT!



NO! GET A
HOLD OF
YOURSELF!
THINK...



ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS
IMAGINE I'M
IN MY HOUSE
INSTEAD!



ALRIGHT,
THEN!



CRAP!
THOSE
GUYS ARE
THE REAL
THING! WE
WOULDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE
AGAINST
'EM!

WHO DO
THOSE
STINKIN'
YAKUZA
THINK THEY
ARE?!



YOU'VE GOT
SOME BALLS
TRYIN' TO MESS
WITH US! LITTLE
BOYS SHOULD
LEARN TO ACT
NICE, OR THEY'S
LIABLE TO GET
PUNISHED!



WELL,
NOW, I
THINK I'LL
JUST
TAKE A
BATH.



7
SWP



I'M IN MY HOUSE. I'M IN
MY HOUSE. I'M IN MY
HOUSE. I'M IN MY HOUSE.
I'M IN MY HOUSE...



HEH.
YOU
WANT
SOME,
KID?



EVEN YOU
SHOULD
STEER
CLEAR OF
THEM!

STOP IT,
TAKENO-
UCHI!
THOSE
GUYS
ARE TOO
MUCH!





DAMMIT,
THAT'S
RIGHT!!
CAN'T EAT
ANYTHING!

I GUESS
I'LL START
DINNER.
WHAT SIDE
DISHES
SHOULD
I MAKE?



I'LL JUST
HAVE TO USE
MY WILLPOWER
TO FORCE
THE IDEAS OF
"SICKNESS"
AND "PUKING"
COMPLETELY
OUT OF
MY HEAD!



He's
trem-
bling!

URGH...
CRAP!
THINKING
ABOUT FOOD
BROUGHT
BACK MY
MOTION
SICKNESS.
IF I DON'T DO
SOMETHING,
I'M SONNA
PUKE!



FORGET. FORGET.
FORGET. FORGET.
FORGET...



THAT'S IT. FOCUS
YOUR MIND...



I COMPLETELY
ERASED THE
WORD "PUKE"
FROM MY MIND!



ALRIGHT!
I FORGOT!





HE SEEMS HEALTHY ENOUGH TO ME...

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL



WINNER OF THE
**Kodansha
Manga
Award**



Freaky Field Trip

Takenouchi has finally returned to Japan, but his travels are far from over when the gang from Cromartie shows up on the same train. A missed stop means an impromptu lesson in geography, but the lectures will have to wait when Freddie's horse decides to take matters into its own hooves. Will it be Murder on the Delinquent Express, or can a pair of roving sumo wrestlers calm things long enough for Hayashida to reveal a shocking secret?!

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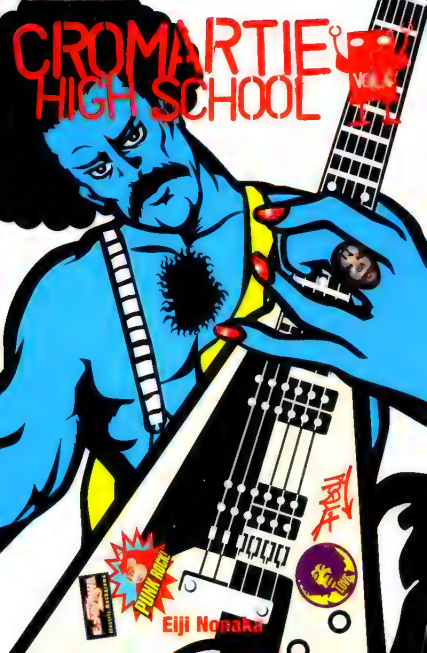
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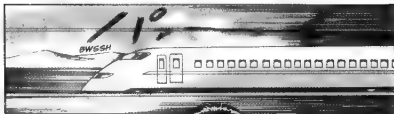
CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL



Eiji Nonaka



CHAPTER SEVENTY-TWO TRAIN, TRAIN

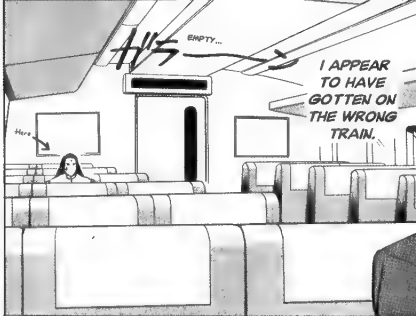


ONE DAY, I WILL RULE
UNCHALLENGED OVER THE
PIGS OF THE LOWER
CLASSES. MY FIRST STEP
TOWARD THIS AMBITION
HAS BEEN TO USE MY
FATHER'S POLITICAL
POWER TO ESTABLISH
DOMINION OVER ALL THE
HIGH SCHOOLS IN JAPAN...
HOWEVER, I REMAIN UN-
ABLE TO BRING CROMARTIE
UNDER MY CONTROL.

MY NAME IS
TAKESHI HOKUTO.
IN ADDITION TO BEING
HEIR TO JAPAN'S
FOREMOST ZAIBATSU
CONGLOMERATE, I
AM A WORLD-CLASS
MARTIAL ARTIST
AND SCHOLAR PAR
EXCELLENCE.

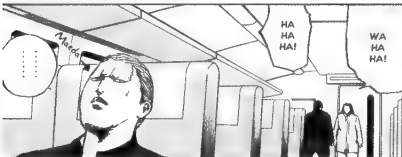
I HAD PLANNED
TO USE THIS FIELD
TRIP TO ALTER THE
BALANCE OF POWER
IN ONE SWIFT
STROKE, HOWEVER...







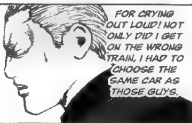
THAT'S RIGHT!
WITH THOSE FOOLS
GALLIVANTING AROUND
ON THEIR CLASS TRIP,
WE CAN SPEAK FREELY
ABOUT YOUR AMBITION
OF CONQUERING ALL
JAPAN! WHAT
INDESCRIBABLE
DELIGHT!



HA
HA
HA!

WA
HA
HA!

WHAT'S MORE, THEY'RE
HAVING SOME PAINFULLY
IDIOTIC DISCUSSION ABOUT
CONQUERING JAPAN
OR SOMETHING.



FOR CRYING
OUT LOUD! NOT
ONLY DID I GET
ON THE WRONG
TRAIN, I HAD TO
CHOOSE THE
SAME CAR AS
THOSE GUYS.

OF COURSE,
WHAT YOU'LL REALLY
NEED ARE COLLEAGUES
THAT YOU CAN RELY ON. I
HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I GET
THE FEELING THAT EVER
SINCE WE CAME TO THIS
SCHOOL, WE'VE BECOME
MORE ALIENATED
THAN EVER.



IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY HAVEN'T NO-
TICED ME. IF I BUTTED
IN NOW, IT WOULD BE
PRETTY AWKWARD...
I'LL JUST LEAVE
THEM ALONE.



WHAT?!!
YOU DID
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
AND DIDN'T
TELL ME
ABOUT IT?!

I AM AWARE
OF THAT. OH, I
FORGOT TO TELL
YOU, BUT I JOINED
THE BASEBALL CLUB
IN ORDER TO MEET
SOME MORE
PEOPLE.

IT'S STILL
A SHOCK,
THOUGH. IT'S
LIKE YOU'RE
TREATING ME
AS IF I WERE
A NUISANCE...

*"The Hokuto
Corps"?!"*

DO NOT
MISUNDERSTAND:
I DID IT TO MAKE
CONTACTS, NOTHING
MORE. EVENTUALLY,
THEY WILL FORM THE
BASIS OF THE
HOKUTO CORPS.

SO
YOU'RE
SHUTTING
ME OUT.
IS THAT
IT?

WHY?
BECAUSE...

YES, I DO!!
PROBABLY LIKE
IT MORE THAN
YOU, TOO!
WHY DIDN'T YOU
ASK ME TO JOIN
WITH YOU?!

PETULANT,
AREN'T
YOU? DO
YOU EVEN
KNOW HOW
TO PLAY
BASEBALL?

SHUT
UP, AL-
READY.

YOU
COULD'VE
JUST
ASKED!

I
DON'T
KNOW
YOUR
NAME.

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW?

CHAPTER SEVENTY THREE: TRAIN KEPT A-ROLLING





WELL, HE'S...
HMM. WHAT
WAS HE LIKE?

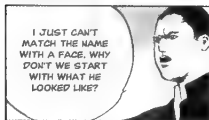
MAEDA? CAN
YOU DESCRIBE
HIM TO ME
AGAIN?



I WAS NEVER
A WEAK FIGHTER
OR ANYTHING. IT'S
JUST THAT SINCE I'VE
COME TO CROMARTIE,
MY PRESENCE SEEMS
TO HAVE GOTTEN
WEAKER AND WEAKER.



THESE GUYS
HAVE REALLY
FORGOTTEN
ME.



I JUST CAN'T
MATCH THE NAME
WITH A FACE. WHY
DON'T WE START
WITH WHAT HE
LOOKED LIKE?



WITH
THINGS THE
WAY THEY
ARE, I DON'T
SEE HOW
THERE'S ANY
WAY TO
STOP IT...



FINE.
WAIT
HERE A
MOMENT.



IT'S
HARD TO
UNDER-
STAND
WHEN YOU
PUT IT INTO
WORDS.

HIS
[REDACTED] WAS
SOMEWHAT
LONG, LIKE
THIS. HIS
[REDACTED]
WAS ABOUT
THIS WIDE,
AND...

JUST
SOME PEOPLE
I HAPPENED
TO RUN INTO.
THEY ARE NOT
ACQUAINTANCES
OF MINE.

WHO
ARE
THEY?



MAEDA'S
EYES AND
MOUTH
ARE LIKE
THIS...



NOW THEN,
BASICALLY...



UH, NOW I'M
COMPLETELY LOST...
AND AREN'T YOU
KIND OF INCON-
VENIENCING THESE
GUYS BY DRAGGING
THEM IN HERE?

HE'S
SORT OF
A COMBIN-
ATION OF
THESE TWO.
GOT IT?



BUT HIS
NOSE AND
OVERALL
PROFILE
ARE MORE
LIKE THIS.



I KNOW!
LET'S FIND
SOMEONE
WHO LOOKS
LIKE HIM!



HEY! THERE'S
NO NEED TO
PUT IT LIKE
THAT!

HMPH!
MEANWHILE,
YOU SIT THERE
BLATHERING
LIKE THE SIMP-
LETON YOU ARE,
CONTRIBUTING
NOTHING
AT ALL!



THE HOKUTO CORPS—NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FOUR TRAIN IN VAIN



ANYWAY, KYOTO IS FAR. IT'S BEEN AN HOUR SINCE WE LEFT TOKYO, AND WE'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER TWO TO GO. FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME--WHO HAS TERRIBLE MOTION SICKNESS--THIS RIDE SEEMS LIKE IT'LL NEVER END.

MY NAME IS YUTAKA TAKENOUCHI (16). I'M THE BOSS OF THE 1ST YEARS AT GROMARTIE HIGH. I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT THE HECK I'M STILL DOING ON THIS BULLET TRAIN...



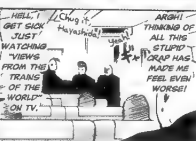
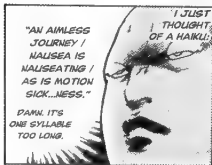
GET A GRIP! CLEAR YOUR MIND AND DEAL WITH THIS, COOLLY AND CALMLY...

YEAH, HELL, HE EVEN SCARED THOSE YAKUZA GUYS SO BAD THAT THEY TOOK OFF RUNNING!

TAKENOUCHI'S STARTIN' TO LOOK EVEN MORE HARD-CORE!

HOW COULD AN HOUR BE SO LONG? THE WAY I FEEL NOW, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN A WEEK.







I'LL TAKE
CARE OF
THESE
MORONS
LATER.

B
R
R
P

ALRIGHT,
I LOSE!



.....



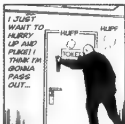
TUG

TOILET

ALL
I HAVE
TO DO
NOW
IS
OPEN
THIS
DOOR
AND



OK, I FINALLY
MADE IT. I NEVER
THOUGHT IT'D BE
SO TOUGH JUST
TO GET TO
THE BATHROOM.



I JUST
WANT TO
HURRY
UP AND
PUSH! I
THINK I'M
GONNA
PASS
OUT...

HUFF

HUFF

TOILET



I-I KNOW THAT
VOICE! IT'S
KAMIYAMA!

TOILET

IT'S
OCCUPIED!



DAMN, HE'S GOOD...
BUT I'M GONNA
REMEMBER THIS,
KAMIYAMA! YOU
JUST MADE IT
ON MY "MUST-
KILL" LIST!



I THOUGHT HE
HADN'T NOTICED ME,
BUT ALL ALONG HE
WAS JUST SETTING
UP HIS TRAP!





AS I HAVE
JUST RELIEVED
MYSELF, HOWEVER,
I AM CAPABLE OF
BOTH RATIONAL AND
IMPARTIAL DECISION-
MAKING. WHY NOT
ALLOW ME TO
COME UP WITH A
SOLUTION TO THIS
PREDICAMENT?

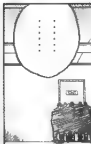
LISTEN UP,
EVERYONE.

RIGHT
NOW, YOUR
URGE TO
URINATE IS
SO STRONG
THAT YOU'RE
UNABLE
TO THINK
CLEARLY.

WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?

I CAN TALK ALL
I WANT, BUT
TAKENOUCHI'S
THE TOUGHEST
FIGHTER AROUND.
IF I TRIED TO TAKE
HIM ON, IT'D BE
SUICIDE FOR SURE.
I'LL GO ALONG
WITH KAMIYAMA
FOR NOW.

IF I TRIED TO
FIGHT HIM HERE
ON THIS TRAIN,
IT'D BE SUICIDE
FOR SURE.
THE SAFEST
THING IS TO GO
ALONG WITH
KAMIYAMA
FOR NOW.



HEY! ASK
US WHAT
WE THINK!

UNDER-
STOOD.

ALRIGHT,
WE'LL
LEAVE IT
UP TO
YOU.

A
LOTTERY.

AND WHAT
EXACTLY
IS THIS
METHOD?

IN SITUATIONS LIKE
THIS, WHERE ONE
MUST ESTABLISH A
SEQUENTIAL ORDER,
IT'S BEST TO USE
THE MOST UNBIASED
METHOD POSSIBLE: A
METHOD WHEREIN ALL
ARE GRANTED EQUAL
RIGHTS!

WE KNOW
HOW IT
WORKS,
FOR
CHRISAKES!

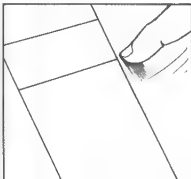
EACH
OF YOU
PLEASE
CHOOSE A
LINE AND
WRITE
YOUR NAME
ABOVE
IT.

WE'LL GO IN
ORDER OF WHO
IS SELECTED BY
THIS LOTTERY
SHEET. THERE
IS NO METHOD
FAIRER THAN
THIS!

Winner



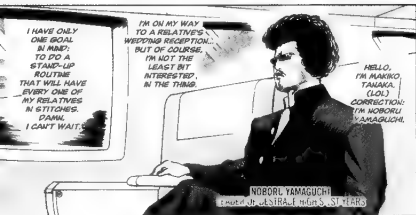
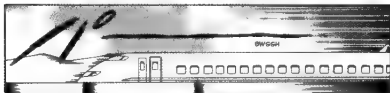
HERE WE GO.
EVEN I DON'T
KNOW WHICH IS
THE CORRECT
LINE! THIS IS
UNEQUIVOCALLY
FAIR!





TRULY, A MAN OF INTEGRITY.

CHAPTER SEVENTY FIVE: THE YAMAGUCHI EXPRESS



I HAVE ONLY
ONE GOAL
IN MIND:
TO DO A
STAND-UP
ROUTINE
THAT WILL HAVE
EVERY ONE OF
MY RELATIVES
IN STITCHES.
DAMN,
I CAN'T WAIT.

I'M ON MY WAY
TO A RELATIVE'S
WEDDING RECEPTION...
BUT OF COURSE,
I'M NOT THE
LEAST BIT
INTERESTED
IN THE THING.

HELLO,
I'M MAKIKO
TANAKA.
(LOL)
CORRECTION:
I'M NOBORU
YAMAGUCHI.

NOBORU YAMAGUCHI
EMERGENCY MEDICAL STAFF, ST. PETERS

HMM. SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEBODY'S EITHER
SICK OR INJURED.
IT'S THE KIND OF
SITUATION YOU
ALWAYS SEE ON TV
AND IN MOVIES...

WE APOLOGIZE FOR
THE INTERRUPTION,
BUT SHOULD A
DOCTOR HAPPEN
TO PRESENTLY BE
ABOARD, WE WOULD
ASK THAT YOU
PLEASE MAKE YOUR
WAY TO CAR NO. 2.
THANK YOU.



A MINUTE OR TWO LATER, SHE'LL COME ON AND ASK, "ARE THERE ANY TRAIN DRIVERS ON BOARD?" TO WHICH EVERYONE WILL IMMEDIATELY GO, "WHOA, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!" THIS SHITCK IS SO OVERUSED.

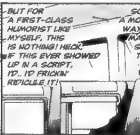
IT'S PRETTY COMMON IN COMIC SKITS, TOO.



WELL, I'VE NEVER HEARD THEM ASK FOR A SUMO WRESTLER BEFORE.

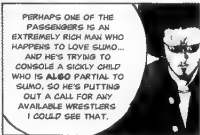


AGAIN, WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BUT SHOULD ANY SUMO WRESTLERS HAPPEN TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.



BUT FOR A FIRST-CLASS HUMORIST LIKE MYSELF, THIS IS NOTHING! HECK, IF THIS EVER SHOWED UP IN A SCRIPT, I'D... I'D FRICKIN' RIDICULE IT!

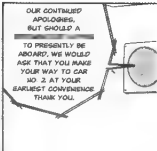
SOMEONE WITH A MORE "NORMAL" WAY OF THINKING MAY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THE REQUEST FOR A SUMO WRESTLER...



PERHAPS ONE OF THE PASSENGERS IS AN EXTREMELY RICH MAN WHO HAPPENS TO LOVE SUMO... AND HE'S TRYING TO CONSOLE A SICKLY CHILD WHO IS ALSO PARTIAL TO SUMO, SO HE'S PUTTING OUT A CALL FOR ANY AVAILABLE WRESTLERS I COULD SEE THAT.



A GREENGROCER?!



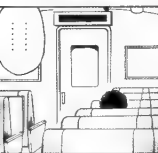
OUR CONTINUED APOLOGIES, BUT SHOULD A TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.



A DOCTOR,
A SUMO
WRESTLER,
AND A GREEN-
GROCER...
WHAT COULD
THESE THREE
HAVE IN COMMON?



HMM, IT'S HARD TO
IMAGINE A SICKLY
CHILD WHO LOVES
GREENGROCERS...
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF
ANY RICH MEN WHO
ARE OVERLY FOND OF
GREENGROCERS, EITHER.
THIS ONE'S A LITTLE
DIFFICULT TO PUT MY
FINGER ON.



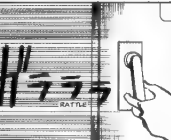
WELL, WHATEVER THE
CASE, THEY OBVIOUSLY
HAVE A SITUATION
IN CAR NO. 2 THAT
REQUIRES A DOCTOR, A
SUMO WRESTLER, AND
A GREENGROCER. YES,
I SEE...



THERE'S NO
WAY IN HELL
THAT COULD
EVER HAPPEN!

(DELIVERING PUNCHLINE TO HIMSELF)

EXCEPT...



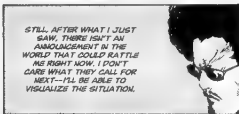
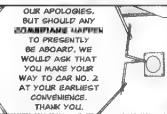
I DON'T CARE
HOW MUCH OF
AN AMATEUR
YOU ARE—
THERE'S ONLY
SO MUCH CRAP
PEOPLE ARE GONNA
PUT UP WITH! I'M
GONNA GO IN
THERE AND SET
THESE IDIOTS
STRAIGHT!

JEEZ! WE
SIT HERE
QUIETLY
AND LISTEN
TO THESE
"ANNOUNCE-
MENTS," AND
THEY TRY
AND PULL
A STUNT
LIKE THIS?



AND THE ANSWER IS: "A RAMPAGING HORSE."

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SIX: THE TRACKS GO EVER, EVER ON





THEY'RE
REALLY
SOMETHING.
IT'S LIKE
THEY'RE
READING MY
DAMN MIND!



WHAT?!



INCIDENTALLY,
WE WOULD
ALSO WELCOME
PERFORMERS
WHO HAVE YET
TO MAKE THEIR
PROFESSIONAL
DEBUT.



COULD
THIS BE
A HIDDEN
CAMERA
SHOW?!



NO. IT FEELS
MORE LIKE
SOME KIND
OF PLOT.



IF I GET CAUGHT
OFF GUARD BY
~~SOME~~ ~~THE~~
~~REPORTER~~, I'D
~~BE~~ ~~IN~~
HELL--AND
BEFORE I'VE
EVEN MADE MY
PRO DEBUT!



THAT'D
MAKE
THEM A
PAIN TO
FIND.



THOSE
LATEST
DIGITAL
CAMERAS
ARE PRETTY
COMPACT.



IN A WAY, IT'S A CHANCE
TO GET INTO THE PUBLIC
EYE **BEFORE** I DEBUT!
THAT MEANS I'VE GOTTA
COME UP WITH A GREAT
RESPONSE FOR WHEN
THEY GET ME ON CAMERA.



HANG ON
A MINUTE.
THIS COULD
ACTUALLY
BE PRETTY
AWESOME!

I HAVEN'T EVEN
MADE MY PRO
DEBUT. THERE'S
NO WAY A TV
STATION WOULD GO
TO ALL THAT
TROUBLE TO SET
ME UP! I THINK
I'M OVERESTIMATING
MYSELF A BIT.

A TYPICAL SETUP FOR
THESE KINDS OF SHOWS IS
TO FIRST BRING OUT A SEXY
TEENAGE GIRL, AND THEN HAVE
THE GUESTS INTERVIEW HER
WITH SOME BIG, FEAR-
SOME-LOOKING DUDE...

SO ONE OF THE PAS-
SENGERS ON THIS
TRAIN IS A RICH
GUY...OR POSSIBLY A
SICKLY CHILD...WHO
LIKES COMEDY?

BUT STILL, WHY
WOULD THEY ASK
FOR A COMEDIAN? I
GUESS THE SIMPLEST
ANSWER IS THAT
THEY'RE AFTER
SOMEONE WHO CAN
MAKE THEM LAUGH.

OK! THE
CONDUCTOR
LIKES COMEDY...
BUT WAIT, GETTIN'
HIM TO LAUGH WHILE
HE'S ON THE JOB
WOULD BE WAY TOO
DANGEROUS.

DAMNIT! MY
IDEAS AREN'T
ANY DIFFERENT
FROM BEFORE!
C'MON, THINK!
TAKE IT TO THE
NEXT LEVEL!

RATTLE

WHAT THE
HECK IS
GOING ON
BEHIND
THIS
DOOR?
I WANNA
KNOW!

I'M
DRAWIN'
A BLANK.



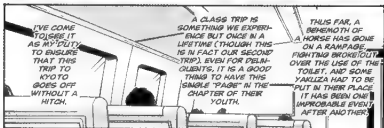
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY CAME UP WITH...

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SEVEN · STOP THIS TRAIN



THE AIR IN THE
TRAIN IS PEACE-
FUL ONCE AGAIN;
IT'S STARTING
TO FEEL LIKE
A PROPER
CLASS TRIP.

DEAR MOTHER, IT
APPEARS THAT
THE HORSE HAS
CALMED
DOWN.



I'VE COME
TO SEE IT
AS MY DUTY
TO ENSURE
THAT THIS
TRIP TO
KYOTO
GOES OFF
WITHOUT A
HITCH.

A CLASS TRIP IS
SOMETHING WE EXPERI-
ENCE BUT ONCE IN A
LIFETIME (THOUGH THIS
IS IN FACT OUR SECOND
TRIP). EVEN FOR DELIN-
QUENTS, IT IS A GOOD
THING TO HAVE THIS
SINGLE "PAGE" IN THE
CHAPTER OF THEIR
YOUTH.

THIS FAR, A
BEHEMOTH OF
A HORSE HAS GONE
ON A RAMPAGE,
FIGHTING BROKE OUT
OVER THE USE OF THE
TOILET, AND SOME
YAKUZA HAD TO BE
PUT IN THEIR PLACE.
IT HAS BEEN ONE
IMPROBABLE EVENT
AFTER ANOTHER.



SWOOSH

HOWEVER,
A RATHER
LARGE
PROBLEM
HAS PRE-
SENTED
ITSELF...



WE SEEM TO
HAVE PASSED
KYOTO QUITE
SOME TIME
AGO.

WE WILL SOON
BE ARRIVING AT
SHIM-OSAKA
STATION.



YOU SURE
KNOW THAT'S
GIVEN YOU
KAMPAMA

YOU DON'T KNOW, I
THINK SHIMANAKU IT'S
WELL KNOWN FOR ITS
SCENERY

WHERE ARE
WE NOW?

IF
ONLY I
HADN'T
SAID
THAT



UH-
OH.

WAKE UP PLEASE
EVERYTHING
IS HERE

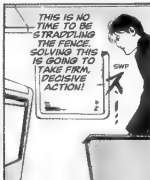
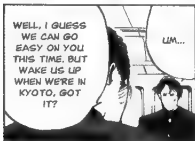
SHUT UP!
HOLEY WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST WAKE
US WHEN
WE GET
THERE?

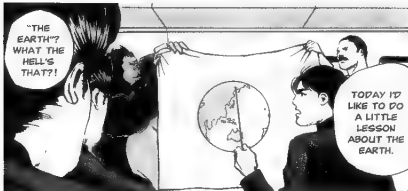
GOOD GRIEF!
YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT
EITHER?

HOW MUCH
LONGER TILL
WE GET TO
KYOTO?







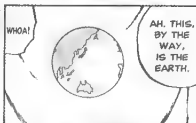


"THE EARTH"?
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?!

TODAY I'D
LIKE TO DO
A LITTLE
LESSON
ABOUT THE
EARTH.

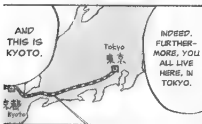


YURI GAGARIN
ONCE SAID,
"THE EARTH IS
BLUE." STILL, I
DON'T SUPPOSE
THAT'S
RELEVANT
RIGHT NOW.



WHOA!

AH. THIS,
BY THE
WAY,
IS THE
EARTH.



AND
THIS IS
KYOTO.

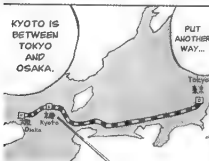
INDEED.
FURTHER-
MORE, YOU
ALL LIVE
HERE, IN
TOKYO.



WE LIVE
IN A
TINY-ASS
PLACE
LIKE
THAT?

IT'S TOO
SMALL.
I CAN'T
SEE IT!

THIS AREA
RIGHT HERE
IS JAPAN.
YOU ARE ALL
CITIZENS
OF THIS
COUNTRY



KYOTO IS
BETWEEN
TOKYO
AND
OSAKA.

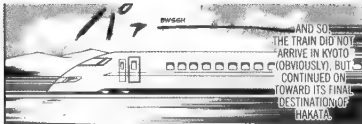
PUT
ANOTHER
WAY...



THIS IS
VERY
IMPORTANT.
PLEASE
TAKE NOTE
OF IT!

AND HERE,
BEYOND
KYOTO, IS
OSAKA.





AND SO,
THE TRAIN DID NOT
ARRIVE IN KYOTO
(OBTAINING), BUT
CONTINUED ON
TOWARD ITS FINAL
DESTINATION OF
HAKATA.



HLIH?

WHAT?!

EVERY-
ONE! THIS
TRAIN IS
NOT
GOING TO
KYOTO!



WE'VE
ALMOST
REACHED THE
LAST STOP.
AT THIS
POINT, AN
EXPLANATION
ALMOST ISN'T
WORTH IT,
BUT...



NO MATTER HOW
LONG YOU STAY
ON THIS TRAIN,
YOU WILL NEVER
REACH KYOTO!

LISTEN
CLOSELY. THE
NEXT STOP
IS HAKATA...
AND IT'S THE
LAST STOP.



YES.



SO
THAT
MEANS...



I'M SORRY,
BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
AROUND
IT. THIS IS
THE END.

WHAT?!
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



I WANNA GO TO KYOTO...

CHAPTER SEVENTY-EIGHT GALAXY EXPRESS 49





THE THING IS, THE GOLDEN AND SILVER PAVILIONS ARE BASICALLY **TEMPLES**. I GOTTA FIGURE THEY WOULDN'T LET YOUR MORE DEGENERATE TYPES GO IN THERE.



DAMN! WHAT A LET-DOWN!

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY **SOCIETY**!

DUDE, EVERY TOWN IS COLD TO US.



YEAH. A TEMPLE'S WHERE TO GO IF YOU WANNA, LIKE, SHAVE YOUR HEAD AND BE A MONK

AHH, WHATEVER. I GOT BAD LUCK WITH LOTTO'S ANYHOW.

THEY ARE PRETTY STRICT AT THOSE TEMPLES, HUH?



WHAT?

EXCUSE ME.

HEY, WITH A CUT LIKE THAT, YOU'RE ALREADY HALFWAY THERE! HA HA!

WELL YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT. I AMN'T DOWN WITH THAT WHOLE MONK THING.



OH, WELL. KINDA SUCKS, THOUGH.

WHAT, WERE ALREADY THERE?

BUT IT'LL HAVE TO STOP THERE FOR NOW: WE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING AT OUR STATION.

NOT ONLY IS THIS CONVERSATION OF YOURS MAKING MY HEAD SPIN...





THAT WAS A
PRETTY FUN
TRIP, HUM?

TOKYO

SHIN-YOKOHAMA

WELL, HERE
WE ARE.

WE
WERE
ON THE
RETURN
TRAIN?!



THE BULLET TRAIN MANGA—THE END.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-NINE JOURNEY OF THE HEART





IS IT
POSSIBLE
WE NEVER
ACTUALLY
WENT TO
KYOTO?



WHENEVER
SOMETHING
DOESN'T WORK
OUT FOR US, WE
JUST KIND OF
SLIDE IT UNDER
THE CARPET...BUT
ISN'T THAT WHAT
MAKES SOCIETY
LAUGH AT US?



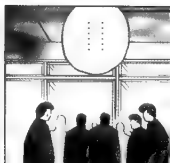
NO, LET ME
SET THE
RECORD
STRAIGHT ON
THIS, OR WE
MIGHT END UP
BEIN' HOOD'S
FOR THE REST
OF OUR
LIVES!

DON'T
SAY
THAT!



KAMI-
YAMA...

DON'T
BE SO
HARD ON
YOURSELF,
HAYASHIDA-
KUN.





THE REAL PROOF OF
A TRIP LIES IN THE
HEARTS OF THOSE
WHO WENT, AND IN
THE MEMORIES THAT
THEY'VE ACCUMULATED.

GOING ON
A TRIP IS,
BY NATURE,
SOMETHING
OF AN
INTANGIBILITY.



YEAH...



EVEN IF YOU TAKE
PHOTOS OF YOUR
JOURNEY, THEY
ARE MERE IMAGES,
NOTHING MORE! IF
THEY DO NOT LIE
WITHIN YOUR HEART,
THEN IT'S THE SAME
AS HAVING NEVER
GONE!



THOSE
PRECIOUS
MEMORIES
ARE THE
REAL PROOF
OF YOUR
TRIP!



PEER DEEP
INTO YOUR
HEARTS. FIND
THE MEMORIES
THAT YOU
HAVE THERE.



YOU
UNDER-
STAND
NOW,
DON'T
YOU?



NOW WE
CAN SAY
WITH
CONFIDENCE
WHETHER
WE WENT
ON A TRIP
OR NOT.



WE'VE BEEN
FOOLS. IT'S
UP TO OUR
HEARTS TO
TELL US THE
TRUTH.

THANKS,
MAN.



YOU SEE?

YEAH. WE
DIDN'T GO.

I WONDER IF
I CAN GET A
REFUND ON MY
DEPOSIT...

WE DIDN'T GO EITHER.

TAKASHI KAMIYAMA

Our protagonist, and the only honor student at Cromarbie High. These story elements, however, have long since fallen by the wayside.

SHINJIRO HAYASHIDA

An idiot, as you can clearly see. Has a mohawk. Provides many of the jokes in this story. In this volume, he will reveal a shocking truth.

AKIRA MAEDA

Has a sharp tongue. Is the voice of reason, but unfortunately no one ever pays any attention.

YUTAKA TAKENOUCHI

Leader of the 1st-year students at Cromarbie High. Is a top-rate fighter, he is also, however, top-rate when it comes to motion sickness. He returns from America in this volume.

TAKESHI HOKUTO

Heir to the Hokuto Foundation, a powerful conglomerate. Has ambitions of bringing all Japan's high schools under his control. At least, he used to.

HOKUTO'S HENCHMAN

Even now, he continues to pledge his loyalty to Hokuto--which in a way makes him the biggest moron of all. His name is still unknown.

FREDDIE

Completely enshrouded in mystery. A swell guy who nonetheless raises the question: is he really a high school student? More to the point, is he even Japanese?

MECHAZAWA

A machine. In this respect, at least, he is easier to understand than Freddie. In this volume he has been brought back from his "bike form."

NOBORU YAMAGUCHI

Leader of the 1st-year students at Destrade High, Cromarbie's rival school. Loves good comedy. Is extremely particular when it comes to gags.

Wishing you well this winter season.

Just wanted to share this season's greeting with
you, and wish you all the best in the New Year.

THE PATH OF MAN IS ONE OF COMBAT

Shinichi Mochazawa

WHAT CAN I SAY? THIS HANDWRITING LOOKS
MORE LIKE IT WAS PRINTED OUT...



*NATIONAL RICHES
MILITARY MIGHT*

TAKESHI HOKUTO

AS USUAL, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS MAN
IS THINKING. HE CERTAINLY HAS SOME NICE
HANDWRITING, THOUGH...



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year!
Let's keep things
rockin with the
Hokuto Corps this
year, too!

This is the perfect
opportunity, so
I'm just gonna
write it!

My
name is



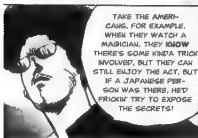
WHO IS THIS ONE FROM? AH, IT
MUST BE HOKUTO'S HENCHMAN.
WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?



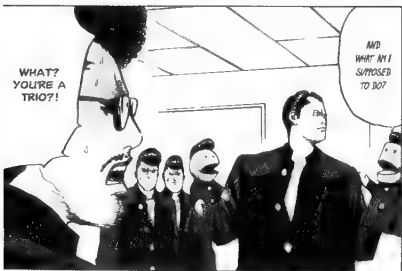
CHAPTER EIGHTY TALKING HEAD















WITH
MY
VOICE.



FLAP
FLAP



THAT
THERE'S
A
DELAY...



FLAP
FLAP



ANYHOW, FROM
TODAY ON, HE'S
MY RIGHT-HAND
MAN. ANYTHING
HE SAYS, TREAT
IT LIKE I SAID IT!



WHAT
USE IS
THAT
IN A
FIGHT?!

I THINK
I'VE SEEN
THIS
BEFORE
SOME-
WHERE...

WELL?
IT'S LIKE A
SATELLITE
BROADCAST
OR
SOMETHING.
HUNT

And it's
tough
to hear
in a
group!



GRARR, I
CAN'T TAKE IT!
I DON'T CARE
WHICH ONE
OF Y'ALL IT
IS! COME GET
SOME!



DAMNIT!
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
WHAT
ANY-
MORE!

"HE"?
WHICH
ONE?!



MICK'S THE STRONGEST!

CHAPTER EIGHTY ONE: A HOLE IN LOTTA LOVE



YES, YOU MUSTN'T
MAKE FUN OF
ANIMALS. THEY'RE
QUITE INTELLIGENT,
AND IF YOU TREAT
THEM WELL, THEY
CAN BRING YOU
GREAT COMFORT.

BLACK
DRAGON
HERE IS
PRETTY
SMART.
HE CAN
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU
SAY.

YEARGH!

GOING

THUS, WE SOON
FOUNDED THE
ANIMAL APPRECIATION
CLUB, AND
WE ALL BROUGHT
PETS TO SCHOOL.

Wain't
it a horse
that got
us pused
off in
the first
place?

ANIMALS
ARE
COOL!

HMM,
REALLY?

THEY MIGHT
EVEN BRING
PEACE
TO YOUR
TROUBLED
HEARTS.

WOW,
EVERYONE
BROUGHT
ALL KINDS
OF PETS!

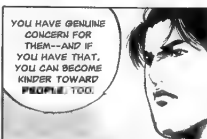


TARO,
PRETTY
COMMON
NAME,
THOUGH.

HE'S
RATHER
CUTE.
WHAT'S
HIS
NAME?

I JUST
—
MY
NORMAL,
EVERYDAY
DOG!

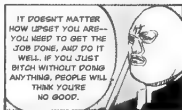






I LIKE THE EXPRESSION ON THE MONKEY'S FACE.

CHAPTER EIGHTY-TWO: MAGIC BATH MAT



YOU COMPLAIN A LOT, BUT YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT YOUR SINGLE VOTE WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TOO IF THE WORLD WAS MADE UP OF GUYS LIKE YOU, NOTHING WOULD EVER GET DONE!



VOTING POLLS? NO, I HAVEN'T, BUT--



ANYWAY, THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO'RE EVEN MORE IRRESPONSIBLE THAN ME. THAT'S WHY JAPAN IS GOING DOWN THE TUBES.

High school students can't vote, can they?

THAT'S SURPRISINGLY CONSCIENTIOUS OF YOU

INCIDENTALLY, I GO EVERY YEAR. I'M NOT BOASTING, THOUGH: IT'S MY DUTY.

OH? SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE YEN LOSING ITS VALUE HAS ~~BEEN~~ AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

SKRCH
H//
SKRCH
H//
7

STOCK PRICES ARE PLUMMETING, THE YEN IS LOSING ITS VALUE, THE ECONOMY'S IN RUINS. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SAVING GRACE.

IS THAT A FACT? AND JUST HOW IS JAPAN "DOWN THE TUBES"?

YOU KNOW NOTHING! HAVING A STRONG YEN ISN'T NECESSARILY A GOOD THING. IF ITS VALUE GETS TOO HIGH, IT'LL DEAL A BLOW TO DEVELOPING BUSINESS VENTURES OVERSEAS! DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE PART OF THE BIG PICTURE!

KH

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT I **DO** KNOW THAT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE YEN TO DEPRECIATE.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE JUST TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS AND ACTING AS IF THEY WERE YOUR OWN. YOU NEED TO LOOK AROUND YOU AND TALK ABOUT WHAT **YOU'RE** EXPERIENCING!

KH

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

I THINK ALL YOU'RE DOING IS REPEATING WHAT YOU READ IN THE PAPER.

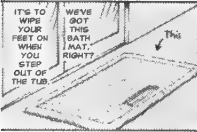


HMM,
WELL, IF I
HAD TO SAY
SOMETHING...



THINGS
CLOSE
TO HOME,
HUH?

TRY TALKING
ABOUT THINGS
CLOSE TO
HOME, THINGS
THAT GET
TO YOU OR
ARE JUST NO
GOOD. THAT'S
YOUR OWN
OPINION.



IT'S TO
WIPE
YOUR
FEET ON
WHEN
YOU
STEP
OUT OF
THE TUB.

WE'VE
GOT
THIS
BATH
MAT,
RIGHT?

THIS



UH-HUH,
AND?

WHEN I
~~GET HOME~~
FROM
SCHOOL,
THE FIRST
THING I DO
IS TAKE A
BATH.



THE THING IS, YOU STEP
ON THAT MAT **AFTER**
YOU'VE ALREADY CLEANED
YOURSELF OFF IN THE
BATH, SO IT REALLY
SHOULDN'T GET THAT
DIRTY. I'M THINKIN' SHE
DOESN'T NEED TO WASH IT
EVERY SINGLE DAY.



I SEE...

MY MOM
WASHES
THAT MAT
EVERY
DAY.



SO THAT'S
SOMETHING CLOSE
TO HOME THAT'S
BEEN GETTING ME
UPSET. WHAT DO
YOU THINK?



I FIGURE ONCE
A MONTH IS
~~REASONABLE~~
OTHERWISE, IT'S
JUST RUNNING UP
THE WATER AND
~~HEATING BILLS~~
WHEN SHE USES
THE WASHING
MACHINE.



BUT WHAT
ABOUT WHEN
YOU GET INTO
THE TUB?



YEAH,
EXAC-
TLY.

SO YOU'RE SAYING
THAT SINCE YOUR
FEET ARE CLEAN WHEN
YOU WIPE THEM,
THERE'S NO NEED TO
WASH THE MAT EVERY
DAY, RIGHT?



SEE, I TOLD
YOU. YOU
HAVE TO
CONSIDER THE
BIG PICTURE. I
GUESS YOUR
MOM WINS
THIS ONE.

OH! WHEN
I'M GETTING INTO
THE TUB, MY
FEET ARE STILL
DIRTY WHEN I'M
STEPPING ON THE
MAT! I WAS ONLY
THINKING ABOUT
WHEN I
GET OUT!



H-HUH?!



PWAAA



NOT GONNA
HAPPEN.



IF WE COULD
STRAIGHTEN OUT
ALL PROBLEMS
LIKE THIS, JAPAN
WOULD BECOME
A BETTER PLACE.
WOULDN'T IT?

THERE SURE IS A LOT OF TALK IN THIS MANGA.

CHAPTER EIGHTY-THREE: WHO NEEDS YOU?





WAIT
JUST A
MINUTE!

ALRIGHT,
THAT'S TWO-
TO-ONE IN
FAVOR OF
MAKING A
MOVE.

I VOTE
FOR.

ME, TOO



YOU COULDN'T
POSSIBLY BE
THINKING OF
ARGUING THAT
ONE OF THEM'S A
VENTRILOQUIST
AND THE OTHER'S
A PUPPET,
COULD YOU?



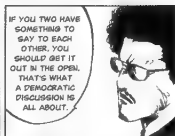
UM,
WELL...
IT'S
JUST...

WHAT? DO
YOU HAVE
AN OBJEC-
TION?



IF YOU SAW TOSHIYUKI
NISHIDA PLAYING
THE ROLE OF GENTA
IKENAKA ON TV, WOULD
YOU SHOUT OUT, "HEY,
THAT'S NOT GENTA
IKENAKA, IT'S TOSHIYUKI
NISHIDA?"



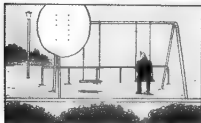


DAMNIT!
YAMAGUCHI'S
ALWAYS SIDING
WITH THOSE
TWO IDIOTS!



WELL, I **DO** KINDA
GET THE FEELING
THAT YAMAGUCHI
AND ME DON'T HAVE
THE SAME SENSE OF
HUMOR...

NO MATTER
WHAT I SAY, HE
JUST SMACKS
ME AROUND...
AND I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHY!



I'VE LIVED MY
LIFE DOIN' THINGS
MY OWN WAY...
BUT MAYBE EVEN
DELINQUENTS HAVE
TO COOPERATE
WITH OTHERS.

WHAT'S THAT? YOU
WANNA TAKE UP
VENTRILOQUISM?

I GUESS THIS
MEANS I GOTTA
TAKE UP
VENTRILOQUISM.



LET ME
INTRODUCE YOU
TO MY MASTER.



MY NAME'S
PAUL.



NICE TO
MEET
YOU, I AM
KAMIYAMA.



SO THAT
HAKAO
GUY'S NOT
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN DO IT...







HI THERE! MY
NAME'S DAVID!



THE
NEXT
DAY



I'VE
~~EXPLAINED~~
MY MIND
ABOUT YOU,
ISHIKAWA.



HUH?

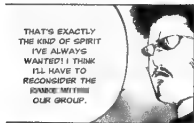
GWP

7



NICE TO
SMELL IN YOU
HAWAII FIGHT?
WA-HE!

SAY
HELLO
TO MY
NEW
PARTNER.



THAT'S EXACTLY
THE KIND OF SPIRIT
I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED! I THINK
I'LL HAVE TO
RECONSIDER THE
JANICE MITCHELL
OUR GROUP.



YEAH,
YOU
SHOWED
ME.

I guess
it was
worth the
\$2,500!

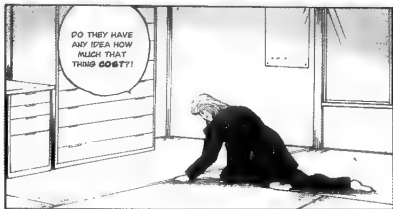
YOU
FINALLY
GET ME,
YAMA-
GUCHI?



LISTEN UP!
I'VE GOT AN
ANNOUNCE-
MENT TO
MAKE!



HUH?
THEN
THAT
MEANS...



\$1,500

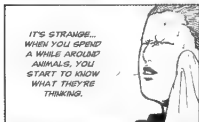
CHAPTER EIGHTY-FOUR: STRAY CAT



AS IF HERALD-
ING THE
IMPENDING
WINTER



THE SUN'S
LIGHT SHONE
DIMLY
THROUGH A
CRACK IN THE
WOODS



IT'S STRANGE...
WHEN YOU SPEND
A WHILE AROUND
ANIMALS, YOU
START TO KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
THINKING.



EASY BOY.
YOU READY
TO EAT?
I'LL GO GET
IT READY
FOR
YOU.

BWRR



IT'S LIKE, THIS
IS THE FIRST
PLACE I'VE
FELT AT
PEACE SINCE
COMING TO
THIS SCHOOL.

OH, SO
YOU'RE
HUNGRY.
TOO? HANG
ON A
MINUTE.

BEING
AROUND
THESE
GUYS CAN
BE PRETTY
SOOTHING.

CLICK

WOOF
WOOF



WELL, I'D
BETTER GO
CLEAN THE
STABLES.



AH, THE
SCHOOL
DAY'S OVER
ALREADY.
NOW YOU
ALL BE
GOOD UNTIL
TOMO-
ROW!

BRRING

WHAT THE
HELL AM I
DOING?!

WH...

SHRACK

WHAT
THE HECK
AM I AT
SCHOOL
FOR?!

AND ISN'T
IT TIME
TO BE
GOING
HOME?

I LET MY
GUARD DOWN
FOR A SECOND,
AND ALL OF A
SUDDEN I'M AN
ANIMAL LOVER?!
I SHOULD
BE AFRAID
OF MYSELF!

"SOOTHING"?!
JEEZ, I WAS
ON THE VERGE
OF BEIN' BRAIN-
WASHED!

I NEVER SAID A DAMN
THING ABOUT WANTING
TO TAKE CARE OF
PETS! I'M GOING TO
STRAIGHTEN THINGS
OUT WITH THOSE IDIOTS
ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WELL,
SIMPLY
PUT...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING

I KNOW
THIS
COMES AS
A BLOW TO
YOU MOST
OF ALL,
MAEDA,
AND I'M
SORRY.

WH-
WHAT?

**WHAT?!
I'M GONNA
FRICKIN' KILL
YOU GONS
OF BITCHES!**

WE'RE SICK
OF OUR PETS,
AND ARE
THINKING OF
GETTING RID
OF THEM.

HEY,
FREDDIE
LEARNED
HOW TO
THROW A
100 MPH
PITCH!

And -
Hokuto
still
winks at
bunting!

IT WAS THE
SAME WITH THE
BASEBALL CLUB!
ALL THAT STUPID
TALK ABOUT GOING
TO THE FINALS
OR WHATEVER,
BUT IN THE END
YOU JUST LOST
INTEREST! IT'S
DEAD IN THE
WATER!

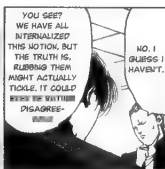
YOU GUYS
ALWAYS DO THIS!
YOU GET ALL
WORKED UP OVER
SOMETHING AND
THEN YOU LOSE
INTEREST IN IT!
YOU'RE LIKE A
BLIND OF KIDS!

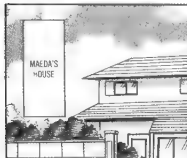
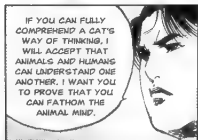
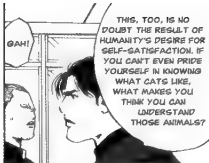
THIS IS ALL I'LL
SAY: DON'T YOU
FEEL SORRY FOR
THOSE ANIMALS?
HAVE YOU EVER
THOUGHT ABOUT
HOW THEY FEEL?!

ENOUGH!

AND HE
ALWAYS
RUNS TO
THIRD BASE
AFTER A
HIT, HUH?

YES, BUT
HE STILL
WON'T
LEARN
THE
RULES.







THIS MAKES
FOR A WELL-
BALANCED
DIET, AND IS
GOOD EVEN IF
YOU'RE **NOT**
BECOMING A
CAT.



YESTERDAY,
I STARTED
EATING A
CAN OF FISH
FLAKES
WITH MY
DINNER...

NO, THIS
ISN'T
~~OK~~
CUT IT.



IS TO TRY
ADDING
"MEOW"
TO THE ENDS
OF MY
SENTENCES.



THE ONLY
THING LEFT
NOW...





THIS IS
ALL JUST
PRETEND!

SAM

WHAT
THE
HECK
AM I
DOING?!



I'M AN
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENT...
MEOW.



GOOD
MORNING...
MEOW



YEAH.
I GIVE
UP.

MAEDA-
KUN! YOU LOOK
COMPLETELY
WORK
OUT.



HUH?

KAMI-
YAMA.

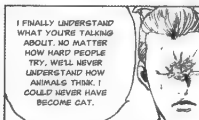


AND SO
A WEEK
WENT BY
WITHOUT
ANY SORT OF
PROGRESS.



HUNT!

ACTUALLY,
YOU'VE
ALREADY
MADE AN
EXCELLENT
CAT.

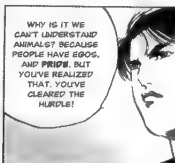


I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT. NO MATTER
HOW HARD PEOPLE
TRY, WE'LL NEVER
UNDERSTAND HOW
ANIMALS THINK. I
COULD NEVER HAVE
BECOME CAT.



EXCELLENT
WORK,
MAEDA-
KUN!

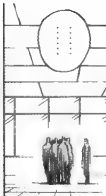
THANKS.
I FINALLY
DID IT!



WHY IS IT WE
CAN'T UNDERSTAND
ANIMALS? BECAUSE
PEOPLE HAVE EGOS,
AND PRIDE. BUT
YOU'VE REALIZED
THAT. YOU'VE
CLEARED THE
HURDLE!

HM? WELL,
NOTHING
REALLY. YOU
CAN JUST GO
BACK TO BEING
YOUR OLD
SELF.

I WANT TO
ASK YOU
SOMETHING,
JUST TO BE
ON THE SAFE
SIDE... WHAT
SHOULD I DO
NOW?



THERE'S
JUST ONE
MORE THING
I WANNA ASK
YOU.

DON'T TELL
ME YOU WERE
REALLY
TRYING TO
BECOME A
CAT?
HA HA!

HA HA!
WELL, I'M
GLAD TO
HEAR IT.

NO, DON'T
DO THAT!

IT'S OK TO
TAKE THESE
OFF NOW,
ISN'T IT?

WHY CAN'T
I TAKE 'EM
OFF?

OH, YEAH.
OF COURSE
NOT, RIGHT?
HA HA!

I DEFINITELY THINK THEY'RE MESSING WITH YOU.



THESE ARE BANANAS. THAT MEANS THIS ONE MUST BE FROM THE GORILLA. BUT THAT RAISES ANOTHER QUESTION: HOW DID HE WRITE THE MAILING ADDRESS?



MANY HAPPY RETURNS!
Have a sweat New Year!

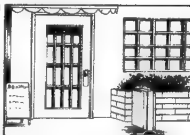


Shinjiro Hayashida
SEASON'S GREETINGS

HAYASHIDA-KUN, YOU MISPELLED "SWEET."
AND WHAT IS THIS ANIMAL-LIKE THING
SUPPOSED TO BE? EVEN THE GORILLA CAN
DRAW BETTER THAN THIS...



CHAPTER EIGHTY-FIVE GET IT ON





HUH?!

SAY,
WHAT'S
"MOTION
SICK"
MEAN?



NAH, I WOULDN'T
CALL IT A DISEASE. .
THOUGH IF THERE
WAS SOME SURGERY
YOU COULD GET TO
FIX IT, THEN YEAH,
YOU SHOULD PROBLY
CHECK YOURSELF
INTO A HOSPITAL.

IS IT A
DISEASE?



I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU
COULD FEEL
BAD BY
GETTING INTO
A VEHICLE.

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
YOU MEAN YOU'VE
NEVER EVEN **HEARD**
OF IT?! THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

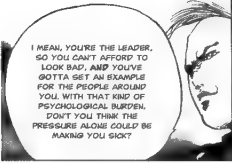


LISTEN, IT'S NOT GONNA
LOOK GOOD IF PEOPLE
KNOW THAT TAKENOUCHI,
THE BOSS OF CROMARTIE,
GETS MOTION SICK. SO
I WANNA DO SOMETHING
TO FIX IT BEFORE ANYONE
FINDS OUT.



YOU
JUST
DON'T
GET IT,
DO
YOU?

AH. SO
THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
SO
PORKY!



I MEAN, YOU'RE THE LEADER,
SO YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO
LOOK BAD, AND YOU'VE
GOTTA GET AN EXAMPLE
FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND
YOU. WITH THAT KIND OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN,
DON'T YOU THINK THE
PRESSURE ALONE COULD BE
MAKING YOU SICK?



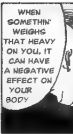
HUH?!



YOU SURE
IT'S A GOOD
IDEA TO
TAKE IT SO
SERIOUSLY?



I'LL BET WORRYING
ABOUT BEING
DISCOVERED
JUST ADDS TO
THE PRESSURE,
TOO. TELLING ME
ABOUT IT HELPED
GET RID OF SOME
OF THAT STRESS.
DIDN'T IT?



WHEN
SOMETHIN'
WEIGHS
THAT HEAVY
ON YOU, IT
CAN HAVE
A NEGATIVE
EFFECT ON
YOUR
BODY



YOU
SURE ARE
MAKING
SENSE
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...



LISTENING TO YOU
REALLY HELPED
ME RELAX. I MIGHT
EVEN BE ABLE TO
RIDE IN VEHICLES
NOW!



AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED,
THIS ISN'T A BIG
DEAL. YOU'RE
A REAL GOOD
FIGHTER, AND
THAT'S
ALL THAT
COUNTS.

HEY,
YEAH. NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
IT HELPED
A LOT!



THANKS,
KAYASHIDA.
HEARING YOU
SAY THAT
TAKES A
LOAD OFF
MY MIND.



YOU SEE? THE
MOST IMPORTANT
THING IS TO
KEEP YOURSELF
RELAXED. HEY, WHY
DON'T WE GO FOR
A RIDE? IF YOU
GET SICK, WE CAN
JUST GET OFF.



HE THREW UP AFTER THIS.

CHAPTER EIGHTY-SIX · THE SOUL OF MY HEAD

JUST TELLING
SOMEONE ABOUT
YOUR WORRIES IS
ENOUGH TO RELIEVE
A LOT OF STRESS.
YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT NOW, RIGHT?

ANYWAY,
PUTTING THAT
ASIDE...

AND THE GUY YOU'RE
TALKING TO COULD BE
THINKING, "GEE, THIS
GUY'S WORRIED ABOUT
THE SAME THING I AM,"
AND IT'LL BE A RELIEF
FOR HIM, TOO.

IT'S NOT GOOD
TO KEEP
THINGS HIDDEN!
HONESTY IS
WHAT'S MOST
IMPORTANT!

I
thought
I was
gonna
do

YEAH. I
FEEL A
LOT LESS
ANXIOUS.

THE TRUTH IS, I'VE GOT
SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WORRYING
ABOUT MYSELF...I'VE BEEN
KEEPING IT HIDDEN, AND IT'S
REALLY BEEN BOTHERIN' ME.
BUT NOW THAT I'VE HEARD
YOUR STORY, I FEEL SILLY FOR
WORRYING ABOUT IT.

YEAH,
THAT DOES
HAPPEN
SOME-
TIMES.

MAN, IT'S A
RELIEF TO
HEAR THAT!
OK, I'LL TELL
YA.

WELL, LET IT
OUT! I'M NOT
GONNA TELL
ANYONE. IT'S
PROBABLY NOT
EVEN THAT BIG
A DEAL.

HUH. YOU'RE
THE LAST GUY
I'D EXPECT TO
BE ANXIOUS
OR HAVE
SOMETHING
TO HIDE.



THE THING IS, MY OLD MAN IS REALLY STRICT, AND MY BROTHERS ARE ALL HOTSHOT ELITES. I GUESS I SORT OF REBELLED AGAINST THAT, AND...NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS ON MY WAY TO BEIN' A DELINQUENT.

TH-THIS IS ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL! WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS!

IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL COMPARED TO YOUR PROBLEM, BUT...

BUT IF THEY'RE TOO OVERBEARING, THEIR KIDS WILL REBEL. EVEN GUYS WHO WERE FINE UP THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL CAN SUDDENLY GO THROUGH THE OLD TOUGH-GUY "HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT" ROUTINE

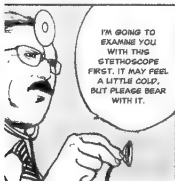
I HEAR YA. NO MATTER HOW BAD YOU MIGHT BE, YOUR FOLKS STILL CALL THE SHOTS AT HOME

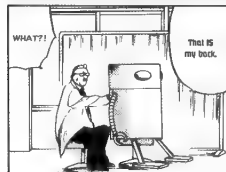
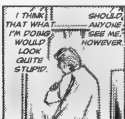
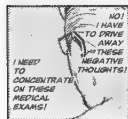
BUT MY DAD'S PRETTY SCARY, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FULLY MADE UP MY MIND THAT'S WHY WHEN I'M AT HOME, I HAVE THIS HAIRSTYLE





CHAPTER EIGHTY-SEVEN: **FACING HEALTH**





I'M READY,
DOCTOR.

ENOUGH!
TIME
TO PULL
MYSELF
TOGETHER
AND MOVE
ON TO
THE NEXT
PATIENT.

I CAN'T
TELL THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
HIS
FRONT
AND HIS
BACK!

I'M SORRY,
BUT YOU'LL
NEED TO
REMOVE
ALL YOUR
CLOTHING.

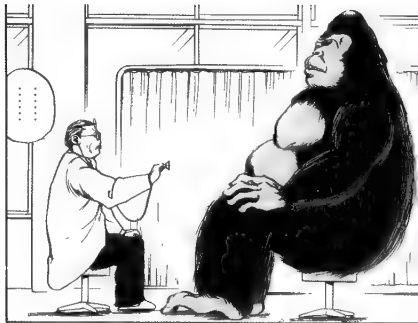
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I'M
REFERRING
TO!

ALL OF
IT, HUH?

WHAT?

WHAT AM I GOING
TO DO IF A DEMON
WALKS IN? OR A
BEAR? AS LONG AS
IT'S ON THE ORDER
OF, SAY, A GORILLA, I
CAN DEAL WITH IT.

PHREW, OK,
ALMOST DONE.
BUT I CAN'T
LET MY GUARD
DOWN YET. I
STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO
EXPECT NEXT.



AAH, IT
WAS A
GORILLA.
THAT'S
GOOD...



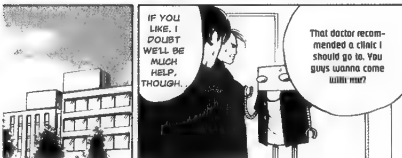
DOCTOR,
PLEASE
CALM
DOWN!

WHAT
THE HELL
AM I
SAYING?!



IT'S NOT SO GOOD, IS IT?

CHAPTER EIGHTY-EIGHT: **ELECTRIC WARRIOR**



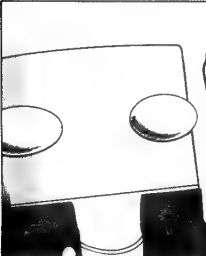






YEAH. IT'S
A REAL
RELIEF FOR
US, TOO.

WELL,
MECHAZAWA-
KUN, I
SUPPOSE
GETTING THIS
TAKEN CARE
OF IS A LOAD
OFF YOUR
MIND.



Please follow
these automated
instructions: To
begin, enter your
name.

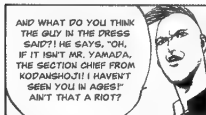
Next, select
a password.
Please refrain
from using your
date of birth or
other personal
information.



ARGH!
HIS
MEMORY'S
BEEN
WIPE!

MECHAZAWA—INITIALIZATION COMPLETE.

CHAPTER EIGHTY NINE: HE IS SO UNUSUAL





IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, YOU COULD AT LEAST COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.

YEAH, RIGHT. CUT THE CRAP ALREADY.

LOOK! I WEAR A HAIR-PIECE!

WELL, SOMETIMES EVEN THE TRUTH CAN BE UNBELIEVABLE!



WHAT?!

I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH HAYASHIDAKUN.

I'M TELLING YOU, TRUE STORIES JUST AIN'T INTERESTING! YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW JACK!



THAT BEING SAID, STORIES THAT LACK **EMBELLISHMENT** ARE RATHER UNINTERESTING. REAL-LIFE OCCURRENCES ARE SELDOM DRAMATIC OR SURPRISING.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, I HAVE NO LOVE FOR LYING. INDEED, I'D REMIND YOU OF THE OLD SAYING, "LIES ARE THE ORIGIN OF POLITICS."

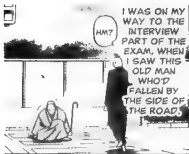


THE FLOOR IS YOURS.

ALRIGHT, I'M GONNA TELL YOU A STORY THAT'S 100% TRUE!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO START FROM SQUARE ONE WITH THESE GUYS, KAMIYAMA.

EVEN IF IT'S BORING, I STILL WANNA HEAR THE TRUTH! ADDING LIES TO IT WON'T MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING!



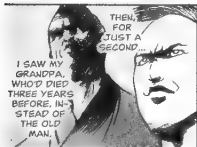
I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE INTERVIEW PART OF THE EXAM, WHEN I SAW THIS OLD MAN WHO'D FALLEN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

HM?



WHOA! ACTUALLY TELLIN' A TRUE STORY THIS TIME, HUH?

BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I ACTUALLY TESTED FOR A DIFFERENT SCHOOL THAN CROMARTIE.



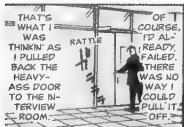
THEN, FOR JUST A SECOND...

I SAW MY GRANDPA, WHO'D DIED THREE YEARS BEFORE, INSTEAD OF THE OLD MAN.



BUT IF I STOPPED TO HELP HIM, I'D BE LATE FOR SURE.

THE OLD GUY WAS PRETTY ILL...



THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKIN' AS I PULLED BACK THE HEAVY-ASS DOOR TO THE INTERVIEW ROOM.

RATTLE

OF COURSE, I'D ALREADY FAILED. THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD PULL IT OFF.



I TOOK THE OLD GEEZER TO A HOSPITAL AND I WAS LATE TO THE INTERVIEW-- OVER AN HOUR LATE.

SO WHAT DID YOU DO?

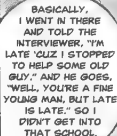


A-HA! I KNOW! AND BEHIND THE DOOR WAS THE OLD GUY YOU'D HELPED OUT! HE WAS REALLY, LIKE, THE PRINCIPAL OR THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR, AND HE THANKED YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, RIGHT?!



THIS STORY SOUNDS KINDA FAMILIAR.

HOLD ON.



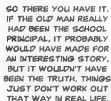
BASICALLY,
I WENT IN THERE
AND TOLD THE
INTERVIEWER, "I'M
LATE 'CUZ I STOPPED
TO HELP SOME OLD
GUY," AND HE GOES,
"WELL, YOU'RE A FINE
YOUNG MAN, BUT LATE
IS LATE." SO I
DIDN'T GET INTO
THAT SCHOOL.



HUH?!



OF
COURSE
NOT! NOW
YOU GUYS
ARE JUST
MAKIN' UP
WHAT YOU
WANNA
HEAR.



SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
IF THE OLD MAN REALLY
HAD BEEN THE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL, IT PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE MADE FOR
AN INTERESTING STORY,
BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN THE TRUTH. THINGS
JUST DON'T WORK OUT
THAT WAY IN REAL LIFE.



And
principals
don't
wear
emojis!



YEAH,
BUT
THAT'S
REALITY.



MAN...
THAT'S
FRIGGIN'
TERRIBLE!



ON MY
FIRST DAY
IN ATTEN-
DANCE AT
A PRIVATE
SCHOOL I
HAD JUST
TRANSFERRED
TO.



IT
WAS
TWO
YEARS
AGO...



WHERE
THE HECK
DID YOU
COME
FROM?!



VERY WELL! I
WILL SHARE A
BORING-BUT-
TRUE STORY
OF MY OWN.



CLATTER



SWAP



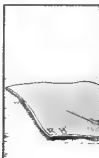
AH!



WHAM



RMPH!



AFTER THAT, IT TURNS OUT THE GIRL'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU, AND SHE SITS RIGHT NEXT TO YOU! SHE SHARES HER TEXTBOOK WITH YOU, AND WHEN YOU GIVE HER HANDKERCHIEF BACK, EVERYONE STARTS HOOTIN' AND HOLLERIN'. FROM THEN ON, THE TWO OF YOUSE ARE FIGHTIN' LIKE OLD FRIENDS, AND YOU START GROWIN' CLOSER TO EACH OTHER. IS THAT HOW IT GOES?

OH! I THINK I GOT IT!

THAT STORY WENT NO-WHERE!

DAMN, THAT'S BORING! IT SOUNDS LIKE A REAL STORY, ALRIGHT!

I HAD TRANSFERRED TO AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL.

A NORMAL ENOUGH ASSUMPTION, I SUPPOSE. HOWEVER...

OH, MAN! THAT'S SO BORING! BUT IT'S TOTALLY REAL, TOO!

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN IT IN AT A POLICE BOX.

SO WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE HANDKERCHIEF?

BE FOREWARNED: THIS STORY IS EXCEEDINGLY UNINTERESTING, WITH NOT A HINT OF DRAMATIZATION OR UNTRUTH. PREPARE YOURSELVES.

DUDE, HE'S PULLIN' OUT THE BIG GUNS!

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE A PARTICULARLY BORING STORY OF MY OWN.



IT HAPPENED
LAST WED-
NESDAY...



THAT
MAKES ME
WANNA
HEAR IT
EVEN
MORE!

IT HAPPENS,
THOUGH, YOU
CAN'T GO
REMEMBERING
EVERY SINGLE
BORING
STORY!

WHAT?! IT
WAS SO
BORING
THAT YOU
FORGOT?

Now
THAT'S
real!

AH! I'M
TERRIBLY
SORRY! THE
STORY WAS
SO BORING
THAT I
FORGOT
IT!

I got a real boring
one...Or rather, a real
ORDINARY one. But it's
completely true. Now
listen up.

HUH?!

If you
want
boring
stories,
I'm your
man.

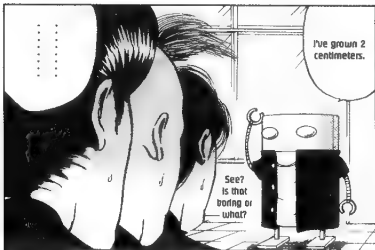


We're all in our
first year of high
school, and at the
peak of puberty...





So the other day, I
figured I'd mea-
sure my height.



MECHAZAWA—A TIME OF GROWTH.

Freddie



IS HE HARASSING ME, OR IS
THIS JUST A LITTLE "SOMETHING
EXTRA"? MORE TO THE POINT,
HE CAN WRITE!



HAPPY NUDE YEAR!
MANY HAPPY
RERUNS!!

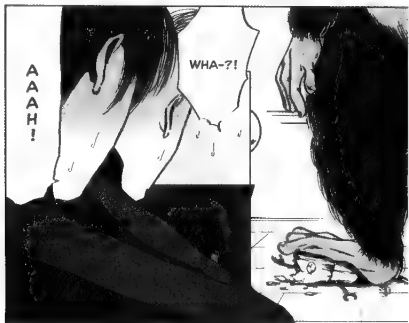
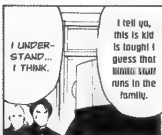
BY SALTY TARO

WHO THE HECK IS THIS FROM?



CHAPTER NINETY: **TWISTED BROTHERS**





THOSE FOLKS
AT SATOH
ELECTRONICS
SURE KNOW
THEIR STUFF!

Meko-
lutta

WHOA!
HE'S AS
GOOD
AS NEW!

MECHA-
ZAWA'S
LITTLE
BROTHER
IS FINALLY
FIXED!

A FEW
DAYS
LATER

I FAIL TO SEE
A PROBLEM.
CELL PHONES,
FOR EXAMPLE,
BECOME
SMALLER
WITH EACH
SUCCESSIVE
GENERATION.

Meko-
lutta

ISN'T HE
A LITTLE
SMALLER
THAN
BEFORE?

STILL...

HEY, I JUST
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHIN'. WITH
THIS LITTLE GUY ON
OUR SIDE, THERE
AIN'T NO ONE WHO
COULD BEAT US
IN A FIGHT!

HE RECEIVED
SUCH A SHOCK
FROM WHAT
HAPPENED LAST
TIME THAT HE'S
BEEN LAID UP IN
BED. PERHAPS
WE SHOULD BE
MORE WORRIED
ABOUT HIM....

INCIDENT-
ALLY, WHERE IS
THE OLDER
MECHA-
ZAWA?

LEMME
SEE HIM
FOR A SEC.

BUT HOW
ON EARTH
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO USE
HIM IN A
FIGHT?

I'VE OPENED
MY EYES
TO THIS
GUY'S TRUE
POTENTIAL!
C'MON, GIVE
HIM A TRY!

He looks
pretty
naïve for an
electrical
appliance.

YOU
THINK SO?
THAT'S
WHAT
MECHA-
ZAWA-
KUN SAID,
BUT...







THIS
WILL
NEVER
WORK!

OH...



MECHAZAWA-KUN
REALLY CARES
ABOUT HIS LITTLE
BROTHER. IF HE
FINDS OUT BETA
HAS BEEN SMASHED
AGAIN, I'M SURE
HE'LL BE ANGRY.

WHAT DO WE
DO? THE PEOPLE
AT SATOH
ELECTRONICS
SAY HE WON'T
BE READY TILL
TOMORROW!

MECHA-
ZAWA IS OK
NOW. HE SAYS
HE WANTS TO
COME SEE HIS
BROTHER.

THE
NEXT
DAY

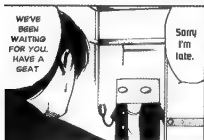
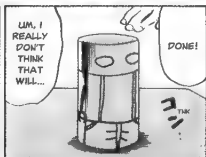
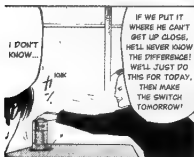


NOT TO
WORRY.
I GOT A
GREAT
IDEA.

HEY, WHY
DO WE
ALWAYS
GET
TRAPPED
AT MY HOUSE?

NOT
THAT IT
CHANGES
TO ANY
GREAT
DEGREE...

I CAN
ALMOST
SEE HIS
ANGRY
FACE
NOW.

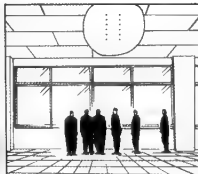
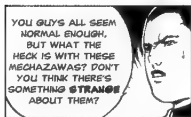
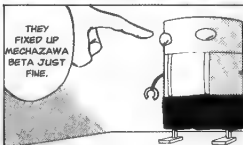


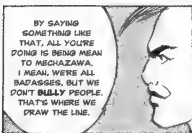


THE "TEA CANISTER" THEORY, CONFIRMED.

CHAPTER NINETY-ONE: TOYS IN THE HOUSE OF MAEDA











NO PROBLEM.
OH, IS THAT
RIGHT? I SEE.
THANK YOU.

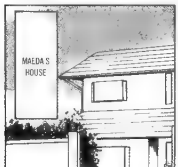
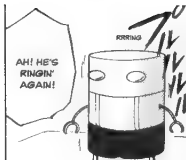
OH, YES,
THANK YOU.

THEN WHY
DIDN'T YOU
JUST HANG
UP?!

WRONG
NUMBER.

WHO
WAS
IT?

DEEP





AAH!
GONE!

HE'S
GONE.

I WAS
CLEANING
OUT THE
CLOSETS
JUST
NOW,
WHEN
I REA-
LIZED...



DON'T
TELL ME
HE GOT
THROWN
OUT
WITH THE
TRASH!

MAYBE
HE WENT
OUT FOR
A WALK.

NOW
THAT'S A
MYSTERY. HE
DISAPPEARED
SO QUICK,
TOO.



WE SHOULD
HAVE SOME
TEA AND THINK
THINGS OVER.

YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT.
LET'S
JUST
TAKE A
DEEP
BREATH.

LET'S JUST
CALM DOWN,
EVERYONE!
GETTING ALL
WORKED UP
WILL ONLY
MAKE THINGS
WORSE.

RIGHT. IN THE
FRIDGE...

OH, WE'VE
GOT SOME
ICED TEA IN
THAT FRIDGE
OVER THERE.

TH-
THAT'S
HIM!

SORRY, BUT
COULD WE
TROUBLE YOU
FOR SOME
ICED TEA?

OH, HELLO
MRS. MAEDA.
THANKS FOR
HAVING US
OVER.

AND HIS HEAD'S THE FREEZER.



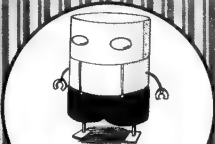
AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME NEW CHARACTERS



AKIRA NAKAO AND MICK

Like a comet shooting from the skies, the long-awaited No. 2 man has appeared at Destrade. His spectacular arrival showcased the most devastating technique in his arsenal--ventriloquist abilities on such an order that Yamaguchi, Destrade's head honcho, fell completely under their spell. I bet Nakao's not even a delinquent! This nefarious man (and puppet) snatched away Ishikawa's position with ease, and even managed to get Ishikawa to start learning ventriloquism himself! Nakao's weakness is that his foul-mouthed delinquent puppet has made such an impression that Nakao pales by comparison--to such an extent that even your humble author has forgotten what Nakao actually looks like! I always worry I'll accidentally draw some other character's face instead .but if I did, would you readers even notice?! It just goes to show how dangerous this guy is. His "delayed effect" ventriloquism is superb (though it is rather difficult to illustrate). So anyway, which of these guys is the No 2?

MECHAZAWA BETA



Younger brother of high school student Shinichi Mechazawa. His word of choice is "Mekalatta." Beta is such a friendly little character that he makes you willing to overlook how out there this storyline has gotten. Actually, having this fellow show up has only served to deepen the mystery surrounding the Mechazawa household. Unlike his manly older brother, Mechazawa-Beta is quite innocent and charming (perhaps because he is still just a child). His shorts and suspenders are especially cute. When it comes to fighting, however, he seems to take after his brother. That being said, Beta tends to meet with an unfortunate end every time he appears. In spite of this being a "no frckin' girls allowed" manga, one which fairly brims with MANLY sensibilities, it has come to my attention that this little guy has become rather popular with the women. But what the heck kind of name is "Beta"? Especially when his older brother is just plain Shinichi!

KICHI FUJIMOTO

In the real world, he's a violent, raging hoodlum--but online, he's the nicest guy imaginable. He's the Internet Kingpin, and it's the disparity between his two personalities that gets the laughs. It's kind of like *The Matrix* in reverse. Incidentally, he's the leader of the 1st year students at Manuel High; he's also the only Manuel student to have yet made an appearance. His heartlessness and demonic strength have made him feared even within his own circle of friends. On the Internet, however, he is calm and collected--quick to observe proper "netiquette," and in constant fear of being flamed or having slanderous comments posted about him. Just seeing that big-bodied thug sitting daintily in front of a computer is enough to make you laugh, but the fact that he's so friendly and courteous when online is enough to bring tears to your eyes. It turns out that when Fujimoto first appeared in *Shonen Magazine*, readers who had no interest in the Internet didn't find him the least bit amusing...Incidentally, it wasn't mentioned this time around, but his online name is "11 p.m." What the hell is that supposed to mean?!

**MAKIO TANAKA**

Strictly speaking, this is not a "new" character. If you recall, Tanaka was the Cromartie 1st year who was always being bullied, but who got some help from Kamiyama in Chapter 5, "Run (Errands) Towards Tomorrow!" However, given that he turned right around and placed an order with Kamiyama along with the other delinquents, you could say that we've already seen a glimpse of his true personality. Online, Tanaka is the most malicious of Internet users, taking advantage of the anonymity it affords to harass others (perhaps as a release from his otherwise gloomy day-to-day life). There really are guys like this, aren't there? His online dispute with Fujimoto is absolutely hilarious...though some may wonder if the author isn't trying to cajole all those Internet users out there to conduct their discussions in a calm, objective manner. I wasn't thinking anything like that, honest!

CHAPTER NINETY-TWO: **TIME AFTER TIME**

I HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY TO YOU
ALL TODAY, SO
I WONDER IF
YOU WOULDN'T
MIND LISTENING.

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERYONE.
I'M TAKASHI
KAMIYAMA.

IS IT ALRIGHT FOR
THINGS TO SIMPLY
STAY AS THEY ARE?!
WE ARE, AFTER ALL,
STUDENTS...THOUGH
WE MAY FORGET
THAT AT TIMES.

FOR SOME TIME
NOW, I HAVE
BEEN NAGGED
BY A CERTAIN
PROBLEM—
NAMESLY, WHY
HAS THIS SCHOOL
COME TO SUCH
A STATE OF
RUIN?

BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT
THERE IS STILL TIME! IF WE
ALL PITCH IN AND DO OUR
BEST, WE CAN BRING ABOUT
A RETURN TO A GOOD AND
PROPER STUDENT LIFE!

I MUST ADMIT, I
WAS EXTREMELY
DISHEARTENED
WHEN I FIRST
ARRIVED HERE.
EVENTUALLY,
I GAVE IN TO
DESPAIR...

HOW DO
ALL OF YOU
FEEL ABOUT
THIS?

AT LEAST,
THIS IS MY
OPINION.

NOBODY'S
EVEN
HERE!



BUT IT'S 11:00 ALREADY.
THAT FALLS FAR
BEYOND THE SCOPE
OF MERE "LATENESS."
IT'S ALMOST TIME
FOR LUNCH! TO A
STRAIGHTFORWARD
INDIVIDUAL SUCH
AS MYSELF, THIS IS
ALMOST UNTHINKABLE!



COULD
IT BE
THAT
THEY'RE
ALL
JUST
LATE?



IT'S NO
USE. WE
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
IF THEY
WON'T EVEN
COME TO
SCHOOL.



AT ANY
RATE,
THE FIRST
THING
I'LL HAVE
TO DO IS
TEACH THE
OTHERS
THAT
TARDINESS
IS NOT
GOOD!



BUT HE'S
NOT EVEN
IN THIS
CLASS.
FOR THAT
MATTER,
HOW LONG
DOES HE
PLAN TO
KEEP
COMING
TO THIS
SCHOOL?!



AT LEAST
FREDDIE'S
HERE...





NO.
LET HIM
CONTINUE.



W-WELL,
THAT
ABOUT
WRAPS IT
UP FOR
TODAY.



WHOA,
EASY!
THAT'S
HIRAI-
SAN!

WHAT'S
WITH THAT
SON OF A
BITCH? HE
BETTER
SHUT UP
RIGHT
NOW!



Hirai-san
(Called
"-san"
because he
flunked a
year and
is older
than the
others.)

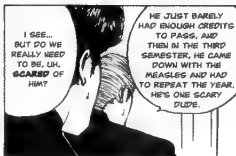
LISTEN, THERE'S AN
OLD SAYING: "THE
BEST STORYTELLERS
ARE THE BEST
LISTENERS." IT MEANS,
IF YA DON'T LISTEN TO
WHAT PEOPLE SAY,
YOU'RE GONNA DIE A
LOUSY DEATH!



SO IS
THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH BEING
LATE TO
SCHOOL?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE, BUT
THANKS.

We're
not
before



I SEE...
BUT DO WE
REALLY NEED
TO BE, UH,
SCARED OF
HIM?

HE JUST BARELY
HAD ENOUGH CREDITS
TO PASS, AND
THEN IN THE THIRD
SEMESTER, HE CAME
DOWN WITH THE
MEAGLES AND HAD
TO REPEAT THE YEAR.
HE'S ONE SCARY
DUDE.

THEREFORE, IF YOU'RE
PAYING AN ANNUAL
TUITION OF 500,000
YEN, YOU'RE LOSING
200,000 YEN PER YEAR!
FOR THREE YEARS OF
HIGH SCHOOL, THAT'S A
600,000 YEN LOSS!



LET'S SAY, FOR
EXAMPLE, THAT
THERE ARE FIVE
PERIODS PER DAY.
IF YOU MISS TWO
OF THEM, THEN
YOU'RE MISSING
40% OF YOUR
CLASSES.

*100,000 YEN = ABOUT \$1,000 U.S.

HEY! WHERE
DOES HE
GET OFF
TALKING TO
HIRAI-SAN
THAT WAY?

I-IT'D LOSE
THAT
MUCH?

IN ANY EVENT,
HIRAI-SAN HAD
TO REPEAT
HIS 1ST YEAR,
WHICH MEANS
HE'D HAVE AN
800,000 YEN
LOSS!

EVEN IF YOU BUY
SOMETHING VIA
MAIL ORDER, YOU
HAVE EIGHT DAYS
TO RETURN IT--
BUT IF YOU'RE
LATE, YOU WON'T
GET A REFUND.



WE'D
NEVER
THINK
THAT...

YOU
SCUMBAGS
THINK I'M
STUPID 'CAUZ
I HAD TO
REPEAT A
YEAR, DON'T
YOU?

ARE YOU
SAYING I'M
SO DUMB
THAT HE
COULD
JUST
TRICK
ME?

DON'T LET
THAT SON
OF A BITCH
FOOL YOU,
HIRAI-SAN!

W-WAIT A
SECOND!
WE CAN'T
WAKE UP
TOO EARLY
IN THE
MORNING,
YOU
KNOW!

ALRIGHT!
FROM NOW
ON, YOU
GUYS
BETTER NOT
BE LATE.

LIKE THE
SAYING
GOES, "TIME
IS MONEY."
THAT MEANS,
ANY GUY WHO
WASTES TIME
IS A FRICKIN'
MORON!



I WORRY ABOUT
YOU GUYS, YOU
KNOW. I ENDED
UP HAVIN' TO
REPEAT A YEAR,
AND I DON'T WANT
YOU ALL TO GO
THROUGH THE
SAME HARDSHIP.

NO...
SORRY.

WHAT
WAS
THAT?!
ARE YOU
GUYS
DISOBEYIN'
ME?!

ASKIN' A
TO GET UP
EARLY IS
LIKE ASKIN' A
BUSINESSMAN
TO EVADE
TAXES!

STILL,
I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THIS
"MORNING"
STUFF.

"FOUR
GREAT
ONES"?

IF I HADN'T
FLUNKED,
I'D BE IN
THE 2ND
YEAR RIGHT
NOW...AND A
MEMBER OF
THE FOUR
GREAT
ONES!

I WENT TO
BED AT 7 A.M.
YESTERDAY.
IT'S HARD TO
SLEEP WHEN
YOU'RE USED
TO BEIN' WIDE
AWAKE.

I'M USUALLY
OUT UNTIL
3 A.M., AND
GO TO SLEEP
AROUND 4:00
OR 5:00.

WHAT
TIME
DO YOU
GO TO
SLEEP?

NAH. IF YOU
REGISTER
IT, YOU CAN
PARK 'EM
WITH THE
BICYCLES
OUT
BACK!

I THOUGHT WE
COULDN'T RIDE
MOTORCYCLES
TO SCHOOL!

CAN
WE
PARK
OUR
BIKES
HERE?

AH, I GOTCHA.
SO I SHOULD
COME HERE
AFTER OUR BIKE
RALLIES ARE
OVER

IN THAT
CASE, WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST COME
TO SCHOOL
AT 6:00?



YEAH, WE
COULD
TOTALLY
AMBUSH
'EM IF WE
GET THERE
EARLY!



PERFECT!
WE'LL GO
RAID THEIR
SCHOOL
BEFORE WE
COME HERE!



THIS IS KINDA
OFF-TOPIC,
BUT LAST
WEEK SOME
2ND YEARS
FROM MANUEL
HIGH JUMPED
ME.



I NEVER
WOULDA
THOUGHT
OF THAT...



HEY,
THAT'S
GOOD
THINKING!



LOOK, WHY
DON'T WE
JUST HAVE
OUR MEETIN'
IN FRONT
OF MANUEL
TOMOR-
ROW?



DUDE,
IT'S RIGHT
BETWEEN
HERE AND
WHERE
WE HOLD
OUR RALLIES!
SO IT'S NOT
LIKE WE CAN
AVOID IT.



UM, I THINK
THAT
RAIDING
MANUEL HIGH
WOULD MAKE
YOU LATE
FOR
SCHOOL.



AND
DON'T
YOU
DARE BE
LATE!



THEN IT'S
DECIDED! WE'LL
ALL MEET IN
FRONT OF
MANUEL HIGH AT
10 P.M. TONIGHT!

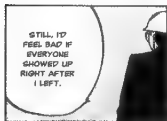
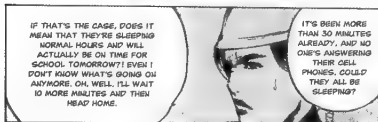


YEAH!



YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT A WOODEN SWORD, DIDN'T YOU?

CHAPTER NINETY-THREE LOVE LETTER





I DON'T LOOK
LIKE I'M
STANDING HERE
WAITING FOR A
DATE, DO I?

OH, NO.



STILL, I CAN'T
HAVE THEM
ACCUISING ME
OF NOT COMING
WHEN I ACTUALLY
DID.



I SHOULD
GET
HOME, AND
QUICKLY.

OUTRAGEOUS!
NOT ONLY DO
I NOT HAVE A
GIRLFRIEND, BUT
IF MY HEART IS
GOING TO RACE, I
CERTAINLY DON'T
WANT IT TO BE IN
REFERENCE TO
A GROUP OF
BADASSES!



HMM, I'LL JUST
MENTION THAT
I REALLY WAS
HERE AT 10
P.M.

I'LL
LEAVE A
LITTLE
NOTE
FOR
THEM,
TOO.

Greeting
I, Kamiyama,
did in fact



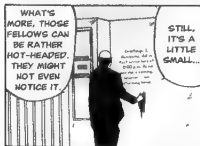
I KNOW, I'LL
LEAVE THIS HERE
AS PROOF.

BUT NOW IT
LOOKS EERILY
LIKE A FAREWELL
NOTE, AND IF IT'S
BLOWN AWAY
BY THE WIND,
THEN ALL THIS
WILL HAVE BEEN
IN VAIN! WHAT
SHOULD I DO?

ALRIGHT,
I'LL JUST
LEAVE
IT RIGHT
HERE.



OF
COURSE!
I'LL
WRITE IT
DIRECTLY
ON THE
WALL.



DONE!

Greetings, I,
Kamuyama, did in fact
arrive here at 10:00
p.m. As no one else is
coming, however, I
am returning home.

WITH
THAT IN
MIND,
I WILL
CRAFT
A NEW
MESSAGE.

I SHOULD
MAKE THE
LETTERS
~~SHORTER~~
AND TRIM
DOWN THE
LENGTH.

THAT LOT
IS SO TRULY
UNINTELLIGENT
THAT THEY MAY
BE UNABLE, OR
UNWILLING,
TO READ SUCH
A LONG
MESSAGE.

THE
SENTEN-
CES ARE
A LITTLE
LONG,
TOO.

Greetings, I,
Kamuyama, did in fact
arrive here at 10:00
p.m. As no one else is
coming, however, I
am returning home.



"ON WALL: 'KANZYAMA WAS HERE!'"

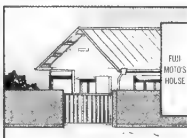
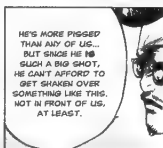
I GET THE
FEELING I'VE
SEEN THIS SORT
OF GRAFFITI
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE...



Turns out you're the baddest one of them all.

CHAPTER NINETY-FOUR: KINDNESS TO OTHERS





THI, EVERYONE. LONG TIME,
NO SEE! I'M FINALLY GOING
TO HAVE DSL THIS YEAR!!
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT. THE PLACE
WHERE I LIVE ISN'T IN THEIR
SERVICE AREA YET. TALK
ABOUT A LETDOWN! LIVIN' IN
THE COUNTRY CAN BE A PAIN
THESE DAYS... 1, 2 "



GUESS
I'LL
POP IN
FOR A
BIT.

HMM.
THERE'S A
CHAT ROOM
ALREADY
OPEN.

"SPEAKING OF MANNERS,
JUST YESTERDAY A
CERTAIN TROUBLED
INDIVIDUAL SPRAYED
GRAFFITI ON A WALL
IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
HONESTLY, WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO DO WITH
THESE PEOPLE?"



HUH....

Hey there, friends!
I've introduced a
topic for discussion
today: "All about
manners." So chat
away, everyone.

HM, IT GOT
AN IMMEDIATE
RESPONSE.



"DOES HE THINK IT
MAKES HIM COOL TO
DO THAT? EVEN MORE
ABSDURD IS THAT SOME
PEOPLE ACTUALLY
CONSIDER THIS STUFF
'ART'. THEY REALLY
OUGHT TO CONSIDER
HOW IT AFFECTS OTHER
PEOPLE. > < "



THAT'S A PRETTY
GOOD POINT. THEY'RE
CRITICIZIN' IT, BUT
AT THE SAME TIME,
THEY'RE ALSO PUTTIN'
THEMSELVES IN THAT
GUY'S SHOES, AND THAT
AIN'T AN EASY
THING TO DO!



I agree with you. This is by
no means behavior that
should be allowed. However,
I wonder if the person who
sprayed that graffiti has
some deep-seated emotional
problems. I'm not trying to
defend that person, but
I think you should consider
that possibility.

LET'S SEE,
"HONEY," HUH? I'LL
HAVE TO REMEMBER
THAT! WE MAY
MEET AGAIN
SOMETIME...ON
THE INTERNET, OF
COURSE.

CLICK

カ
タ

カ
タ

CLICK

WHAT'S
THIS
PERSON'S
NAME?

CLICK

CLICK

カ
タ

SOMETIMES
IT PAYS TO
JUST SAY IT.

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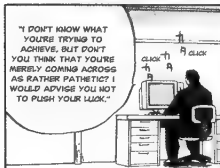
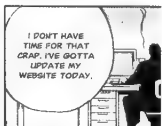
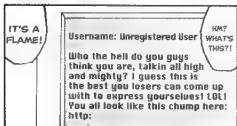
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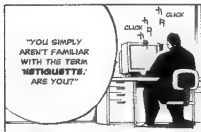
NICE FOLLOW-UP, KAMIYAMA.

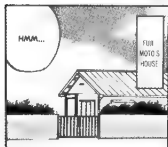
CHAPTER NINETY FIVE. **NET THE GLORY**











MY OWN LITTLE KINGDOM? WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GETTIN' YOUR INFORMATION, BUDDY?!

HE DID IT AGAIN!

Username: Unregistered user

By the way, you must be very proud of yourself for making your own little kingdom here. Is your life that meaningless or what?

OK, IT'S TIME TO DEAL THIS GUY THE FINISHING BLOW!

FLAMING THESE MORONS SURE IS FUN!

HA!

You're a shut-in, aren't you?

HUH?!

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY SAYING I'VE TURNED THIS HOMEPAGE INTO MY 'OWN LITTLE KINGDOM,' BUT THERE'S ONE THING I CAN SAY, AND THAT IS..."

CLICK

HA

IT'S LIKE I'M BEING SPIED ON OR SOMETHING...

CRAP. I GET THE FEELING HE MIGHT BE RIGHT.

"SHUT-IN" IN INTERNET CIRCLES, IT MEANS A PERSON WHO STAYS MOSTLY INDOORS, WITHDRAWN FROM SOCIETY AND INTERACTING SOLELY ONLINE.

A Dictionary of Internet Terminology



AH, WHAT A GREAT DAY!! I THINK I'LL HANG AROUND HERE IN AKIHABARA FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



OH, WELL. LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE FOR A BIT.

I JUST CAN'T FIND A WAY TO GET BACK AT HIM.

DAMN! WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT, EITHER.



THERE SEEM TO BE MORE NEWS THAN USUAL AROUND HERE LATELY. I WISH PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO BUILD THEIR OWN COMPUTERS WOULDN'T COME HERE!



THAT SON OF A BITCH! HE'S GOT ME SO PISSED OFF, I ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT A MAC MO DISK FOR MY WINDOWS MACHINE!



OH, SORRY ABOUT TH--



OUCH!

SWAP



TANAKA, THE INTERNET THUG, HAS FALLEN.

VOLUME 4 ★ THE END



A despondent Eiji Nonaka

Eiji Nonaka denied Shogakukan Manga Award!

SHOCKING!

Author beside himself with grief!
Incidentally, he is published by Kodansha

Nonaka shoots back, "Don't call me an underdog!"

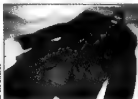
One of the nominees for the Shogakukan Manga Awards, the results for which were decided several days ago, was Eiji Nonaka's 'Cromartie High School'

The shocking truth, however, has now come to light: through oversight (or, rather, as one would reasonably expect) Nonaka was unable to win this coveted prize. All concerned were unable to hide their disappointment.

Said Mr. Nawata, a representative of the Shogakukan publishing company, "It's too bad you weren't awarded the prize. I'm an avid reader of your manga. It sure is funny, isn't it? I really think it's a shame you didn't win."

Upon receiving this rather cheerfully delivered news via telephone, Nonaka's editor responded with, "Oh, is that right?" I see. Well, I thought as much!" The pleasant demeanor of his reply was more than a little reminiscent of a comedy skit. After hanging up, he is said to have hung his head in self-loathing.

The said Nonaka had planned to wear to the awards



Word of the nomination of "Cromartie High School" for the award was received toward the end of last year and had fueled both Nonaka and his editor with delight. The two had mistakenly believed that nomination was tantamount to actually winning the prize, and had gone so far as to buy brand-new

クロマティ高校校内新聞

THE CROMARTIE GAZETTE
Published By The Cromartie
Newspaper Club

People in the house say "Yeeah!"

First, I'd like to thank God for granting me the fortune to be here right now. Actually, though, I never really stood down.

Nonaka's acceptance

suits in preparation for the award ceremony. In retrospect, the two could not possibly regret the hastiness of their actions more than they already do.

Unfortunately, not only had Nonaka contacted all his relatives about the prize, he had rashly chosen to prepare an acceptance speech (having seemingly planned to win an Academy Award). This tragic incident is seen to have stemmed from the fact that Nonaka and his editor have received next to no praise for their work. Upon hearing of their

rejection, the two men became involved in several heated arguments over who should take responsibility. They are currently on very poor terms, and rumor has it that continuation of Nonaka's manga is at this point out of the question.

Incidentally, the recipient of the Youth Category award was Ms. Rumiko Takahashi, for her manga "Inu Yasha." Many are of the opinion that right from the start, "Inu Yasha" vs. a certain ordering manga title was in fact no contest at all. Congratulations, Ms. Takahashi!



We get the feeling that a manga like this couldn't really have been expected to win...

CHILDREN AT CROMARTIE? IMMEDIATELY LEAVE! MARCH SCHOOL REGULATIONS

A few days ago, there was something of an outcry when it was learned that a child had been entering and leaving our school grounds. The child's name is Mechazawa Beta,

and he is the younger brother of 1st-year student Shiroichi Mechazawa. The two brothers get along famously, and more than a few Cromartie students have elected to get involved with their charming capers. However, while our school prides itself on the open-mindedness of its policies,

the decision to bring one's younger brother to school has become a matter of concern.

"The kid's so small that I'm worried someone might step on him," comments Akira Maeda, a 1st-year student. "And that ain't the real problem here, either!"



Poor depressed Eiji Nonaka. Retailers are trying desperately to get rid of "Cromartie High School" Vols. 1-4, so please take a few copies off their hands! And let's support Mr. Nonaka's other works like "Kacho Bokas Ichidai Kodomo" too!

Nonaka Lashes out After Award Snub "If that's the way it is, I'll just make my own award!"

Introducing the Eiji Nonaka Award!

Distracted after his recent failed bid for the Shogakukan Manga Award, Eiji Nonaka and his editor conducted a careful investigation into how one goes about winning such a prize. His findings led him

to a single conclusion: why not make his own award, to present to whomever he pleases? Mr. Nonaka has since voiced his intention to go ahead with this award, which he has dubbed the Eiji Nonaka Award, and wonders why he didn't think of the idea sooner. The award will be conferred upon athletes who maintain productive careers in Japan while simultaneously making outstanding contributions to society.

Presentation of the Eiji Nonaka Award will be managed jointly by Mr. Nonaka and the Eiji Nonaka Award Committee starting

this year. It has also been decided that the recipient of the glorious 2001 award shall be Foshissa Nishi of the Tokyo Giants baseball team. As a bonus prize, Mr. Nishi will be sent a

complimentary signed copy of all volumes (i.e. four of 'em) of "Cromartie High School!"

The Committee looks forward to Mr. Nishi's reply.



I GUESS I
CAN'T WIN
THIS ONE,
EITHER!

And why the heck is it going to KATLATES? Shouldn't this be a manga award?

Cromartie Student Submissions Corner

Calling All Poets!

Title: "I can't help it"

Sure. I can just say "It came to me." But I get the feeling

that if I keep this up, the day will come when someone—yes, someone—will be really ticked off at me. But I'm gonna do it anyway.

Pen name: Superhero

Comment: Does an excellent job of expressing regret and uncertainty.

In place of any sort of afterword...

Learn a little
about Nona!

EJI NONAKA:
The Manly Survey

- | Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| 1 Something you've wanted to try recently | Quit smoking. |
| 2 Something sad that happened to you recently | A bike I hadn't used for a while got all rusty (and lost the air in its tires). |
| 3 Something that made you happy recently | I put air back in the tires. |
| 4 What you've been eating recently | Udon, ramen, Fried rice, ham & egg lunch set |
| 5 Books you've read recently | I don't read. |
| 6 A movie you like | Juggernaut |
| 7 Performers you like | Ryumon Yamato |
| 8 What you think about this manga | Not much. |

Signature

のなかえいじ

(Eji Nonaka)

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL VOLUME FOUR

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Cromartie High School Vol. 04

P 01

Magazine cover

In Japan, *Cromartie High School* is published in the popular *Shonen Magazine*. For this volume, author Eiji Nonaka did a send-up of a *Shonen*-style cover, but with a uniquely *Cromartie* flair. The (many) text elements appearing on the cover are translated as follows:

- *Shonen Magazine Weekly*, No. 49
- Hop step magazine! Forget about it!
- "I wanna see your face!" This week's photo layout presents Masked Takenouchi!
- The heart-wrenching final installment! (Aah, who cares?) – "Tomorrow, Be The Gorilla!"
- The thrilling climax! And still no dialogue! – "Freddie and the High School for Lifers!"
- Readers begone! Four desperate attempts in serialization: "Hayashida and the Lullaby," "I am Made of Iron," "Hokuto and Love" and "Here Comes Takenouchi."
- "Flyin' Beta!"
- "Tough Guy Kamiyama!"
- "Beloved Pootan!"
- "Love Nona!"
- Popular fist to the face of appreciation, Part 2: "For a few Yamaguchis More"
- Plumbing the depths – No motivation! Not even on this cover!
- *Cromartie High School 4*: The "outside of regular continuity" volume, by Eiji Nonaka. Featuring a dynamic, thoroughly dejected new serial!
- "I ain't wrong, you know!" "THE MAEDA BLUES!"

P 11

Zaibatsu

The *zaibatsu* are large Japanese conglomerates, the origins of which go back hundreds of years. These companies gained considerable social and political power, especially in the early 1900s, and many of them exist to this day. The supposed "big four" of the *zaibatsu* are Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sumitomo and Yasuda (but don't tell that to The Hokuto Foundation).

P 20

(1) Buffaloes and baseball

Until recently, the Buffaloes (or Osaka Kintetsu Buffaloes, to call them by their full name) were owned by the Kintetsu Corporation. They were sold in 2004 to the ORIX Group, and later merged with ORIX Blue Waves to form the ORIX Buffaloes.

(2) Views from the Trains of the World

This series of quarterly (or so) specials broadcast on TV Asahi featured--much as the title would suggest--scenes of locales that trains pass through.

P 28

Lottery

The specific type of lottery that Kamiyama makes use of here is an *amidakuyi*, wherein a vertical line is drawn for each participant, and the goal (or prize) written at the bottom. Horizontal lines are drawn connecting each vertical line, and then each participant takes turns inserting an additional horizontal line. Once completed, the participants trace the line corresponding to their name, turning at each horizontal line, until having reached the bottom (and the goal).

Continued...

P 91

Makiko Tanaka

The opinionated and outspoken Ms. Tanaka was Japan's first female foreign minister. She held the post for just under a year, until her sharp criticism of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi led to her being fired from the cabinet. She was later ejected from the Liberal Democratic Party, and barred from rejoining for a period of two years.

P 91

The Tracks go Ever, Ever on

In Japanese, *Senro ga Tsuzuku yo, Doko Made mo*. This is the first line of a ditty that often plays when trains are pulling in to major stations...and that is set to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad."

P 91

The class trip

As Kamiyama correctly points out, high school students in Japan embark on a *single* school trip. For some reason, however, this rule doesn't apply to the badasses at Cromartie.

P 92

Yuri Gagarin

This Russian cosmonaut was the first man in space (April 12, 1961).

P 92

Pavilions golden and silver

The temple of the golden pavilion, or Kinkakuji, is one of Kyoto's major tourist attractions. A few years after its construction, it was used as the template for Ginkakuji, another temple located in Kyoto's Higashiyama district.

P 44

All that glitters...

Hayashida's idea that one can win prizes at the pavilions stems from his misunderstanding of the component parts of the temples' names: *kin* means "gold" and *gin* means "silver," while *kaku* is "tower/palace" and *ji* means "temple." Hayashida got the gold and silver parts correct, but thought that *kakufu* was actually *ka* ("goods/property") and *kuji* ("lottery"). Which shouldn't be too surprising for a man that thought the last name "Hagtwara" should be read "Hagigen."

P 72

Toshiyuki Nishida

A famous comic actor who began his career in the 1970s. He gained international fame for his portrayal of Pigsy/Chohakkai in the television series *Monkey* (Japanese title: *Saiyuki*), and in the 1980s, he starred as Densuke Hamazaki in the theatrical adaptation of the manga *Tsuri Baku Nisshi* (International title: "Free and Easy"). The film was such a hit that it has spun off no less than sixteen additional films, and keeps Nishida busy to this day.

P 100

The Yamanote line

The Yamanote-sen, as it is also known, is one of Tokyo's major train lines. It makes an ovalar loop around the central wards of Tokyo.

P 110

Police box

The police box (or *koban*) is a kind of neighborhood police station. Each is assigned a complement of 12 or so officers who patrol the surrounding streets and lend assistance as needed.

P 111

Akihabara

The Akihabara district of Tokyo is an electronics paradise, a dense marketplace of vendors selling anything from cameras to PCs to anime.